



Residential Pollution Prevention



Where Do Storm Drains Go?

The storm drain on your curbside does more than guzzle gutter water. It leads directly to our natural water system, including local creeks, ponds and streams.

Unlike household drains that route to a treatment plant, storm drains travel underground and funnel untreated water into our waterways. When that water is tainted by pollutants it can seriously impact our natural water resources.

Ways You Can Help To Prevent Water Pollution?

When you wash your car

- Use minimal amounts of biodegradable phosphate-free soap.
- Wash your car on a grass or gravel area.
- Put a spray nozzle on your hose to conserve water.
- Empty any remaining soapy water into a toilet or sink.

When you paint your house

- Choose water based paints over more toxic oil based paints.
- Use up all the paint before disposing of the can.
- Let any residual paint air dry in the can then throw it in the garbage.
- Rinse your latex paint brushes in the sink.

When you care for your lawn and garden

- Always apply fertilizers and pesticides per the manufacturers' directions.
- To reduce the concentrations of pollutants in stormwater runoff, avoid applying lawn and garden chemicals prior to rain events.
- Learn more about less toxic alternatives for Integrated Pest Management at [Our Water Our World](#).

When you clean your driveway

- Use an absorbent like kitty litter or sand to soak up oil and antifreeze spills.
- Sweep up the mixture. Bag it and throw it in the garbage.
- Never hose pollutants down your driveway.

When you care for your pet

- Pick up pet waste. Bag it and throw it in the garbage.