



General Public Pollution Prevention



As a Homeowner, How Can I Prevent Water Pollution?

Lawn and Garden Care



- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Decomposed granite or pavers set in sand are good alternatives for concrete paths or walkways.
- Vegetate or mulch bare spots in your yard to prevent erosion.
- Do not overwater your lawn, allowing water runoff to enter the storm drain.
- Sweep up sidewalks, patios, and decks of yard debris and dispose of it in a covered compost pile or take it to the dump. Do not hose yard debris down the storm drain.
- Select native plants and grasses for your yard. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Avoid application if rain is in the forecast.

Pet Care

- Pick up pet waste. Waste that is left on the ground will be washed into nearby storm drains.
- Flush small animal pet waste or secure it in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash.



Home Repair and Improvement

- Dispose of excess paints, cleaners, solvents, etc. through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- Clean painting equipment in the sink, not outdoors.
- Buy nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean up hazardous materials spills immediately and dispose of them properly.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners sparingly.
- Properly dispose of construction debris either in home trash or in your local landfill.
- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains, culverts, ditches, etc. and protect them from incoming pollutants.



Swimming Pool and Spa Maintenance

- Control algae by regulating chlorine levels and by using a pool cover to block sunlight. Do not use copper-based algae control products.
- Store pool and spa chemicals in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.
- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect any chlorine or other toxic chemicals.



- Check with the Sewer Department before discharging swimming pool water into a public sewer. For more information on sanitary sewer requirements, contact your local wastewater authority.
- Wash your pool filter in a sink or on the lawn to prevent stormwater contamination.

Automotive Repair and Washing



- Check your vehicles, machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make vehicle repairs as soon as possible.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to reduce the amount of car wash water runoff. Use a spray nozzle to prevent water waste.
- Always recycle automotive fluids at appropriate disposal sites. Do not dump them down the storm drain or onto the ground.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material such as kitty litter. Do not hose spills into the street, gutters, or storm drains.

Cleaning

- Direct pressure-washing runoff onto an unpaved surface or vegetated area, not into the street, gutters, storm drains, or public sewers.
- Send cleaning/wash water down a sink or toilet, not into the street, gutters, or storm drains.



Septic System Maintenance and Use



- Do not drive or park vehicles on the septic system drain field. Plant only grass over and near the drain field.
- Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system.
- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary.