

1. Never pour anything down storm drains.
2. Check car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
3. Wash vehicles on the lawn or



Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a creek, river or lake. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for drinking water, swimming, boating, and fishing.



---

*If it gets on the ground, it can get into the water. No one wants to drink from or swim in polluted water.*

---



Hazardous household products like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil can poison aquatic life.

Polluted stormwater can affect drinking water sources.

Sediment clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow; it can destroy aquatic habitat.

Litter, including plastic bags, cans, bottles, and cigarette butts, washed in waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

Nutrients applied in excess cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low levels of dissolved oxygen.

Bacteria and pathogens washed into swimming areas can create health hazards.