

Storm drains connect to our Rivers and Lakes!

By practicing healthy habits, you can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground, out of the storm water and away from rivers and lakes.

Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands. Remember to share these habits with your neighbors.



This brochure is brought to you by the MS4 Technical Committee.



We are an intergovernmental group of local storm water professionals working together to preserve and enhance surface water quality in Champaign County.

For more information, please contact the following:

University of Illinois – 265-0760

City of Champaign – 403-4710

City of Urbana – 384-2432

Champaign County – 384-3708

Champaign County SWCD – 352-3536 Ext. 3


Village of Savoy – 359-0655


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A photograph of a storm drain grate on a sidewalk. The grate is made of metal bars and is partially covered with leaves and debris. Water is flowing through the grate into a storm drain. The background shows a street, a grassy area, and a building.


You Are The Solution to Storm Water Pollution!


Pollution Problems


 Excess fertilizer contributes to green algae blooms.


 Debris – plastic bags, six-pack rings, cigarette butts and landscape waste – can choke, suffocate or disable wildlife.

 Sediment can cloud water and make it difficult for aquatic life to survive.



 Roof runoff increases flooding and carries pollutants to streams and lakes.


 Household hazardous waste such as pesticides, paint, solvents, and motor oil, are poisonous to aquatic life.


 Washing your vehicle releases salt and other pollutants.



 Bacteria and pathogens in pet waste can cause health hazards.


Solutions


 Use fertilizers sparingly.
 Sweep up your driveways, sidewalks, and roads.



 Keep debris out of storm drains.
Don't litter.
Compost yard waste.

 Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
Keep all compost, landscape waste and soil from moving off your property in a rain.

 Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces onto grass areas so it soaks in.
Consider using a rain barrel. 

 Use pesticides according to label directions. Use Integrated Pest Management.
Properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Check your vehicle for leaks, and recycle motor oil.

 Take your vehicle to the commercial car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.

 Pick up after your pet. 

What is Storm Water Runoff?

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

How does Storm Water Runoff cause Pollution?

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged **untreated** into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

For more information:

Center for Watershed Protection
<http://www.cwp.org>
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.state.il.us/>
US Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov>
Stormwater Manager's Resource Center
<http://www.stormwatercenter.net/>