

Make your home

The Solution to Stormwater Pollution

Lake County Stormwater Management Department
www.lakecountyohio.org/smd
Phone: 440-350-2770, Fax 440-352-8133

A homeowner's guide to healthy habits for clean water.



As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater.

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

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to **minimize** the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local water body.

- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Clean up **spilled fluids** with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.
- **Recycle** used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers **sparingly**. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts.
- Select **native** plants and grasses that are drought- and pest resistant.
- **Sweep up** yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't over water your lawn. Water during the **cool** times of the day, and don't let water run

off into the storm drain.

- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and **protect** them from debris and other materials.
- **Sweep up** and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the **smallest amounts possible**, and follow the directions on the label.
- Purchase and use **non-toxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable** products whenever possible.
- **Clean** paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- **Reduce** the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard.



10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads
- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly