

What is Storm Water Runoff??

In open fields, forests and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called storm water or storm water runoff) enters local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

What is Storm Water Pollution?

Unlike pollution from sewage treatment plants, storm water pollution comes from many different sources. Storm water runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution. Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil are all pollutants.

Open dumps and tire piles are also a concern to storm water pollution. Dumping typically occurs on secondary roads, along waterways, abandoned lots, open fields and even near construction sights.

If you would like to report or inquire about litter, dumping or environmental crimes, contact the **Lorain County Sheriff's Office Environmental Crimes Unit. Deputy Bill Curtis 440-329-3743 or Deputy Mickey Jackson 440-329-3759.** www.loraincountysheriff.com



Rural Storm Drains are not always clearly identified. Locate storm drains near you and remove any potential pollutants that may be washed into the drain.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Tips — What Can You Do?

General Information:

□ Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains. These drains may bypass the wastewater treatment plant and go directly to lakes or rivers.

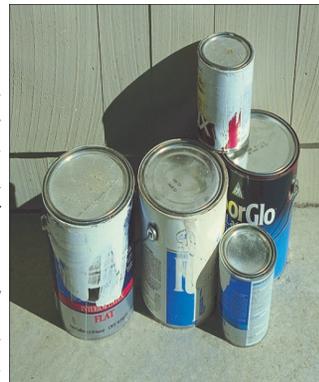


□ If you must buy an item that is potentially hazardous, be sure to buy only as much as you need, and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage and disposal. Save unused materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event in your community or you may take them directly to the **Lorain County Collection Center located at 540 South Abbe Road in Elyria Ohio.** For more information contact the Lorain County Solid Waste Management (LCSWMD) Information Line at 1-800-449-5463. You may also visit the LCSWMD website: www.loraincounty.us/us/solidwaste

Painting:

□ Do not allow liquid paint products and wastes to drain into the ditches, street or storm drains.

□ Save unused paint and materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event or collection center or reuse leftover paints when possible.



Also, many local theater/performance groups and school art departments will take unused and leftover paint.

Auto maintenance:

□ Automobile fluids from leaks or maintenance changes are another source of water pollution. Each year Americans dump enough used oil in landfills to equal to about 13 spills the size of the Exxon Valdez spill!



Even more oil is disposed of illegally. Much of this oil finds its way into our water. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water!

□ If you change your own oil or antifreeze, be sure to carefully collect all of the used oil or antifreeze in a proper container with a tight-fitting cap, and deliver it to a service or local recycling center with the oil filter.



□ Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water. Or, go to a commercial car wash that uses water efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.



Remember:

Stormwater pollution may destroy fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated food, drinking water, supplies and recreational waterways.

Landscaping & Gardening:

☐ Minimize the need for pesticides by choosing plant species that are resistant to insects and disease. Provide habitats for birds, bats, toads, etc. that prey on insect pests. Introduce praying mantises, lacewings, ladybugs and other pest-eaters to your garden.

☐ Do not over apply pesticides and fertilizers. Pull weeds by hand when possible.

☐ Compost your leaves, grass clippings and garden waste. Composting is easy and can be very inexpensive.

For more information, see Ohio EPA's :

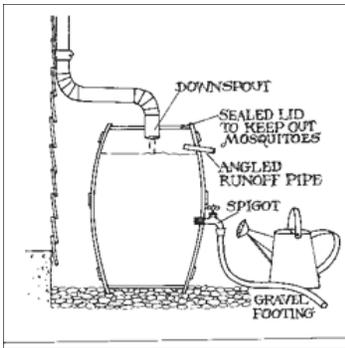
Composting: Nature's Recycling Center at
www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/facts/citizens_guide_to_composting.pdf

☐ Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

☐ Try using a rain barrel or rain garden to catch and reduce storm water runoff. Rain barrels also save money by not using drinking water for watering vegetables, flowers and trees.

For more information on erosion and sediment control, rain barrels and rain gardens, contact the **Lorain Soil and Water Conservation District** Phone: 440.326.5800 for more information or visit their website at:

<http://lorainswcd.com/index.html>



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**Storm Water
Pollution Prevention
for the Home**



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