

What You Can Do To PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

Stormwater pollution is the toxic mix of bacteria, chemicals, metals, nutrients, and other contaminants that washes over pavement and other impervious surfaces and flows down storm drains to the waterways we rely on for drinking and recreation.

Use these tips to help stop stormwater pollution.

RAIN BARRELS:

Rain barrels conserve and reduce the amount of water that runs off land by collecting it from rooftops.



RAIN GARDENS:

Rain gardens can offset the effect of stormwater runoff by feeding plants and trapping stormwater pollution.



LAWN CARE:

Use fertilizers and lawn chemicals sparingly to avoid polluting waterways. Also, be sure to compost or properly dispose of lawn clippings.



PAVING SURFACES:

Brick walkways, gravel driveways, and porous concrete allow rainwater to infiltrate into the ground to be filtered.



MAINTAIN SEPTIC SYSTEMS:

Inspect your septic system every three to five years to avoid leaks. Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in toilets or sinks.



MINDFUL CAR CARE:

When washing your car at home, be sure to do so over a porous surface like gravel or grass. Avoid using harsh chemicals that will flow into stormwater drains.



MANAGE PET WASTE:

Clean up after your pets! Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks as waste bacteria drains into nearby waterways.



PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL:

Recycle or properly dispose of toxic products, including paint, solvents, used oil or pesticides. Use green products when you can.

