Stormwater and Pollution
How It Affects You

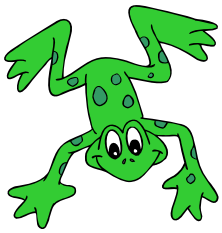
Everyone lives in a watershed that drains into a stream or lake and, ultimately, a river. Stormwater runoff flows across watersheds picking up pollutants—oils and grease from parking lots, asbestos from worn brake linings, zinc from tires, bacteria and nutrients from pet and livestock feces, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from landscaped areas and soils (sediment) washed away from construction sites—to name a few. In fact, anything that is found on the ground or leaches into the ground can wind up in stormwater runoff or groundwater. Anything poured into a storm drain—oil, antifreeze, detergents—is the same as dumping it directly into a lake stream.

The chart below explains how pollutants affect our waterways:

Oils, Greases, Petroleum: gasoline Motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, battery Acid. Any automotive fluid.	Extremely toxic to aquatic wildlife and fish. Smothers insects, crayfish, etc. Coats fish gills. Prevents oxygen from entering the water. Clogs drainage facilities.
Metals: paint, paint thinners, solvents, Metals, (zinc, copper, lead) pesticides, tire particles	Reduces reproductive cycles. Can cause lesions and tumors on fish. Contaminates drinking water. Chlorine is toxic to aquatic life.
Nutrients: detergents, fertilizers (phosphorous, nitrogen), human and animal waste, de-icing salts, auto emissions	Causes excessive algae growth. Algae robs water of dissolved oxygen (needed for aquatic survival); causes water taste and bad smell. Clogs intake drains and pipes. Greases poured in septic systems coat fish gills and smothers bottom-dwelling organisms.
Oxygen-Robbing Substances: grass, leaves, twigs, tree limbs, (contains nitrogen and carbon) garbage, litter	Nitrogen and carbon in yard waste encourages excessive water plant growth, robbing water of dissolved oxygen that kills and limits reproduction of aquatic animals and fish. Also kills stream bank vegetation causing bank erosion. Garbage encourages rodent/mosquito breeding.
Sediments: soil particles washed into stream beds. Oils, metals, bacteria and nutrients attach themselves to soil particles and end up in stream beds.	Sediment smothers fish eggs, destroys habitat for insects (food source for fish) and covers spawning areas. Causes health problems in aquatic life, contaminates drinking water.
Toxic Organic Compounds: insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides washed into streams from construction sites, parks, yards. Chlorinated swimming pool water contains algaecides.	Kills fish and aquatic life. Chlorine and copper algaecides contained in chlorinated pool water is toxic to aquatic organisms, crayfish, fish. Affects wildlife that depends on streams for survival.

Pollution affects every water body it enters. Aquatic life and other animals feeding from the rivers are destroyed or become seriously ill and eventually die. Recreational swimming, fishing, and boating opportunities become unpleasant or unsafe due to odor, taste and aesthetic problems. Maintenance costs increase because uncontrolled sediment causes erosion and flooding problems. Our drinking water supplies and, therefore, our health is affected by polluted water. Our streams are alive with life. Unwise use and careless disposal of pollutants can cause great harm to the streams and everything that depends on them for survival.

Won't you help be the solution to water pollution?



Get In The Action !

Healthy waterways:

- Provide a good habitat for animals
- Provide a healthy home for fish
- Improve recreational opportunities
- Create beautiful natural areas
- Enhance our property value
- Improve our drinking water