

# STORM WATER & STORM WATER POLLUTION

## WHAT IS STORM WATER & STORM WATER POLLUTION?

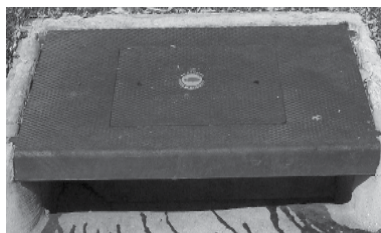
Has your car been leaking any fluids?

Did you dump the soap water you used to wash your car on the pavement?

These small, everyday occurring problems can someday have an everlasting effect on our environment and every living animal that depends on it.



Usually when it rains or when snow melts, the water is soaked up by the ground. However, with more and more paved surfaces in our towns and cities, water frequently finds its way into our storm water sewer system. As it rains, the chemicals and debris from our streets and yards wash down the catch basins. Since there isn't a filtration system on our storm sewer system, these contaminants eventually make their way to the closest body of water.



The actual rain run-off is called storm water. The chemicals and debris left behind contaminate the water. Within the first fifteen minutes of a rain shower, most of the pollutants on the ground begin moving to our local streams, ground outlets, and bodies of water. The best way to keep our environment clean is to prevent pollution before it hits the ground.

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

You may be asking yourself: "Why should I care?" or, "How does this affect me?"

Have you ever participated in recreational activities at a local lake and noticed how bad the water looked? Have you seen the animals forced to live in and around these contaminated areas? Storm water has a direct effect on the ecosystem of many bodies of water. Polluted runoff can damage streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms and fish kills, muddy water keeps fish from feeding and breeding, and excess bacteria can harm both wildlife and people.

For these reasons, it is important to take better care of the environment. Please, watch what you leave on the ground outside and what you dump into catch basins.

**NOTE: Storm water is never treated, it goes directly into our streams, rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water connected to our environment.**

## WAYS TO PREVENT STORM WATER POLLUTION

- **Perform routine car maintenance and keep automotive fluids out of storm water.**
- **Wash vehicles on the lawn. The grass uses both the water and nutrients in the soapy water.**
- **Mix cleaning products or chemicals in a confined area to contain spills from outside pollution.**
- **Avoid using pesticides or chemicals outside if rain is expected.**
- **Properly discard trash so it is not carried away by storm.**
- **Re-route roof gutters so they do not drain directly into the street or storm sewer.**
- **Choose water-based paints instead of oil-based paints for outdoor use.**
- **Keep an eye on the storm drains close to your home and keep the drains free from debris.**



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to help prevent storm water pollution, please contact the Fairborn Division of Water & Sewer at 754-3097. Assistance is needed to attach markers to catch basins. It is a great way for scout troops, 4-H groups, church groups, service organizations or individuals to contribute to the community.

The Division of Water & Sewer provides all the needed materials and training to complete the project.

## FAIRBORN GUIDE TO STORM WATER & STORM WATER POLLUTION



CITY OF FAIRBORN  
DIVISION OF WATER & SEWER  
44 W. HEBBLE AVENUE  
FAIRBORN, OH 45324

937-754-3097

CITY OF FAIRBORN  
44 W. HEBBLE AVENUE

937.754.3097

[WWW.CI.FAIRBORN.OH.US](http://WWW.CI.FAIRBORN.OH.US)