

There are many types of pollutants that find their way into storm drains. Some common pollutants found in storm sewers and creeks include:

- Animal waste
- Litter
- Motor oil
- Yard clippings
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Soapy car wash water
- Eroded sediment from construction projects

It's important to remember that any type of surface water runoff, not just rainfall, can run into the storm sewer and collect in the stormwater management system. When you wash your car on the driveway, that water, dirt, and grime ends up in the system. That's why care needs to be taken with what we put into the storm sewers as traces of all this material can end up in the stormwater system and our local waterways.

What can **YOU** do to prevent stormwater pollution in the District?

1. Remember: Only rain belongs in the drain!

- Don't dump anything down storm drains. Be sure to clear away leaves and debris.

2. Wash your car over your lawn or gravel.

- This allows the ground to neutralize the soap and grime from your car rather than sending it directly to our creeks and streams. Use biodegradable or non-toxic soap that is phosphate-free. You can also take your car to a commercial car wash where wastewater is either recycled or treated.

3. Keep your car well-maintained.

- Fix any fluid leaks promptly and make sure to clean up any spills. If you perform your own automotive maintenance, automotive repair shops will accept used motor oil .

4. Consider disconnecting your downspouts.

- You can plant a rain garden to absorb stormwater runoff. You can also use a rain barrel to help collect runoff from your roof and gutters to be used on your lawn and garden.

5. Use lawn or garden chemicals sparingly.

- Choose organic alternatives when possible and check the weather forecast to avoid applying them before a storm.

6. Mow your lawn less often.

- Try to keep your lawn at least 3" in height to minimize weed growth, reduce the need for watering, and decrease the likelihood of pests. Leaving the clippings on the lawn can also help block weeds and retain moisture. Sweep your sidewalks and driveway rather than hosing them down.

7. Plant native, low maintenance plants and grasses.

- They often have longer root systems, which reduce the amount of chemicals and water needed.

8. Minimize runoff by not over-watering your lawn and garden.

- Keep sprinklers on a timer to avoid pooling water.

9. Clean up pet waste.

- Bag up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash to prevent harmful bacteria from washing into local waterways.

10. Consider minimizing impervious surfaces around your home.

- Use bricks, gravel, cobbles, natural stone, or permeable pavers instead of asphalt or concrete when possible.

12. Make sure storm drain outfalls are not running in dry weather.

- A storm sewer system is designed to carry stormwater. If it hasn't rained in 72 hours, it should not be flowing. Call the District's customer (512)255-7871 and report it.

13. Do not drain your pool, spa, or fountain to a storm drain.

- Allow chlorine to dissipate for several days. Test the water to ensure the residual chlorine is zero before slowly draining to a landscaped area. You may be able to drain to a sanitary sewer. Contact the District for more information.