



Storm Water Pollution

Protecting the quality of our water resources is a responsibility we share. Here's how you can help:

- **Recycle used oil**
Never dump used oil into a storm drain, sewer or on the ground. The oil from just one oil change is enough to contaminate a million gallons of water. The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Huntsville through its Recycling Program provides free curbside residential used oil pickup.
- **Properly dispose of household hazardous waste**
Many common household products such as paint thinners, drain and oven cleaners and pesticides are toxic. This type of waste can be disposed at the 'Handle With Care' Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- **Compost leaves and grass clippings**
Composting is an excellent way to prevent leaves and grass clippings from reaching storm drains. Apply compost to lawn and gardens to decrease the amount of fertilizer needed and to increase moisture retention in soil.
- **Use lawn and garden chemicals properly**
Many chemicals are toxic. Follow label directions carefully for use of all lawn and garden chemicals, and apply sparingly. As an alternative, remove weeds in the lawn by hand rather than applying an herbicide.
- **Plant trees, shrubs or ground covers**
Trees, shrubs and ground covers increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground reducing storm water runoff. Erosion is a significant source of water pollution, so vegetation helps prevent storm water pollution as well.
- **Clean Litter from Streets and Storm Drains**
Clean litter from streets and storm drains in front of your home to keep it out of streams, lakes, rivers and other surface water.
- **Redirect down spouts from paved areas to vegetated or gravel filled areas**
This increases the amount of storm water that soaks into the ground reducing storm water runoff and erosion.
- **Don't hose down driveways or sidewalks**
Dry sweeping paved areas, along with careful trash disposal, are simple, effective pollution reducers.
- **Wash your car on the lawn**
Use the lawn, not your driveway! This reduces storm water pollution.

- **Report sources of storm water pollution**
Report suspected illegal dumping or soil erosion to the proper authorities.
- **Keep your vehicle properly maintained**
Repair leaks quickly. Clean up spilled fluids using an adsorbent, do not hose into the street.