



*Storm drains connect to  
bodies of water!*

For more information, visit  
[www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)  
or  
[www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps)



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## **A Homeowner's Guide To Healthy Stormwater Habits**

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Make  
*Your*  
Home  
The  
Solution  
To  
Stormwater  
Pollution



**Stormwater...** it flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks. As it flows, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or reservoir. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the bodies of water we use for swimming, fishing, and even providing drinking water.



**Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.** The practice of healthy household habits by homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater.

*Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.*

## Vehicle and Garage

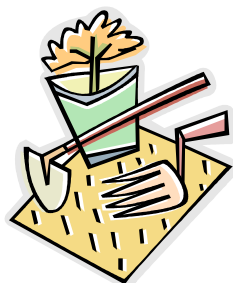
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water and prevent it from flowing into the storm drain and eventually into local bodies of water.



- **Check** your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make all repairs as soon as possible.
- **Clean** up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of absorbent material.
- **Recycle** used oil and other automotive fluids at participation service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

## Lawn and Garden

- **Use** pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in their recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- **Select** native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- **Sweep up** yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.



- **Water** during the cool times of the day. Don't over water and let it run off into the storm drain.
- **Cover** piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into storm drains.
- **Vegetate** bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

## Home Repair and Improvements

- **Locate** the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials before beginning an outdoor project.
- **Sweep up** and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- **Clean up** spills immediately and safely dispose of waste.
- **Store** substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- **Use nontoxic, biodegradable**, recycled, and recycled products whenever possible.



- **Clean** paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- **Reduce** the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

## Pet Care

- **Pick up** the waste and dispose of it properly when walking your pet. Flushing pet waste is the best method of disposal. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local bodies of water.



## Swimming Pools and Spa

- **Drain** your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- **Drain** your pool or spa into the **sanitary** sewer system, whenever possible. You may call LPSCO (623) 935-9367 for locations on your property, if unknown.
- **Store** pool and spa chemicals properly to prevent leaks and spills, and store them in a covered area, if possible, to avoid exposure to stormwater.

