



10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

1. Never dump anything down storm drains, in arroyos, or in streams.
2. Use fertilizers sparingly. Sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters, rather than hosing down areas.
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard with native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant.
4. Don't overwater your lawn, install drip irrigation when possible, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
5. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
6. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
7. Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
8. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
9. Pick up after your pet.
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.



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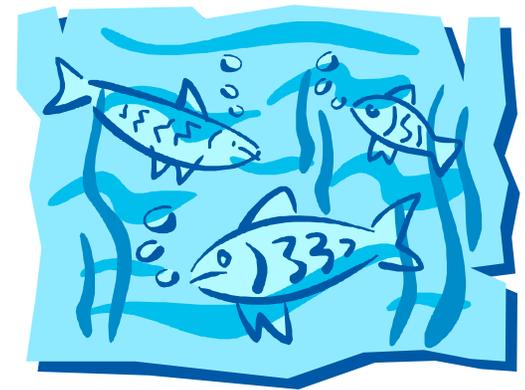
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For more information on water quality, floods, flood-proofing, and recycling, pamphlets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, 203 West Main, the Farmington Public Library, 100 West Broadway, or the Public Works Department, 800 Municipal Drive. The Recycling Center is located at 400 South Orchard.

Form more information, visit:
<http://www.fmtn.org>
<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater>
<http://www.epa.gov/nps>

Stormwater Quality & How It Affects You

Sponsored by the City of Farmington



The purpose of this brochure is to provide information on the effects of toxic chemicals being dumped into the storm drainage system, arroyos, or the Rivers and what you can do to help prevent it.





STORMWATER QUALITY

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater flows into ditches, arroyos, and storm drains that flow directly to the Animas, San Juan and La Plata Rivers. **Anything that enters the storm drain system is discharged untreated into our rivers.**

Improper pouring of wastes into storm drains directly impacts our environment, in addition to being illegal. Oil, paint, fertilizer and pesticides pollute the water, destroy plants, endanger wildlife, and affect our drinking water supply.

One quart of *oil* can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. The oil from one oil change can create an 8 acre (~350,000 sq ft) oil slick. *Antifreeze* is toxic to people, wildlife and domestic animals. *Paint* products can be harmful to people, animals and the environment. *Pesticides* are deadly to fish, birds and other wildlife. *Herbicides* destroy stream-side brush and vegetation as well as animals. *Fertilizers* encourage the growth of algae, which can reduce the amount of oxygen in the river and kill off the fish and the insects they feed on. Excess *sediment* can cloud water reducing the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants, clog fish gills, and smother aquatic habitat and spawning areas.



RAIN GARDENS: GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & PRETTY TOO

What is a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens are beautiful natural landscape features that require less maintenance and fewer chemicals than lawns. Rain gardens capture runoff from impervious areas such as roofs and driveways and allow it to seep slowly into the ground. Most importantly, rain gardens help preserve nearby streams and rivers by reducing the amount of runoff and filtering pollutants.

Why Plant a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens provide for the natural infiltration of rainwater into the soil. This helps to filter out pollutants including fertilizer, pesticides, oil, heavy metals, and other chemicals that are carried with the rainwater that washed off your lawn, rooftop and driveway. Rain gardens also reduce peak storm flows, helping to prevent stream bank erosion and lowering the risk of local flooding. By collecting and using rainwater that would otherwise run off your yard, rain gardens provide an attractive landscape with less watering.



BENEFITS OF SMART STORMWATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

The City of Farmington utilizes storm drains and drainage ways to collect and manage stormwater runoff. The entire drainage system is considered a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and is regulated by the United State Environmental Protection Agency under the Phase II Rule of the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES). The City of Farmington has developed a Stormwater Management Program to meet the regulatory requirements and smart stormwater management is essential to provide the following benefits for our community:

- Reduced stream bank and river bank erosion.
- Decreased flood damages.
- Increased infiltration and groundwater recharge.
- Increased storage in lakes and reservoirs.
- Healthy aquatic habitat.
- Improved water recreation activities.
- Improved drinking water supply.