



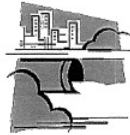
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What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain that falls on roofs, lawns and paved areas, like driveways and roads, and is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes, culverts and ditches. As it flows over the land, stormwater picks up or is contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This untreated water is discharged into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.



How Do Construction Activities Pollute Stormwater?

Construction activities can cause soil erosion and downstream problems with sedimentation. Erosion at construction sites may affect a relatively small percentage of land in the watershed, but can contribute significantly to the erosion rates in the watershed.¹ Development resulting from construction activities can increase the amount of impervious surfaces thus increasing runoff to lakes, rivers and streams. This heightened flow rate may result in erosion and sedimentation problems downstream as well.



¹ Brady, N.C., and R.B. Weil. 1999. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 12th ed. Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Additional Information

Pennsylvania State Dept. of Environmental Protection
<http://www.dep.state.pa.us>

United States Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/npdes>



Stormwater Pollution Prevention: The influence of construction activities

