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## Don't Let Storm Water Run Off With Your Time and Money!

### *What the Construction Industry Should Know About Storm Water In Our Community*

The construction industry plays an important role in improving our community's quality of life by not only providing new development, but also protecting our streams and rivers through smart business practices that prevent pollution from leaving construction sites.

Storm water runoff leaving construction sites can carry pollutants such as dirt, construction debris, oil, and paint off-site and into storm drains. In our community, storm drains carry storm water runoff directly to local creeks, streams, and rivers with no treatment. Developers, contractors, and homebuilders can help to prevent storm water pollution by taking the following steps:

1. Comply with storm water permit requirements.
2. Practice erosion control and pollution prevention practices to keep construction sites "clean."
3. Conduct advanced planning and training to ensure proper implementation on-site.

The remainder of this fact sheet addresses these three steps.

#### **Storm Water Permit Requirements for Construction Activity**

Planning and permitting requirements exist for construction activities. These requirements are intended to minimize storm water pollutants leaving construction sites.

- Pennsylvania's Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program (25 Pa. Code, Chapter 102) requires Erosion and Sediment Control Plans for all earth disturbing activities.
- The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program (25 Pa. Code, Chapter 92) requires that

#### **What is Storm Water?**

Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what are commonly called storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called **storm water runoff**.

