

Extracting text...



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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 we call 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.

Why is Storm Water "Good Rain Gone Wrong?"

Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. Storm water travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up storm sewer systems. It eventually flows directly to a lake, river, stream, wetland, or coastal water. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into our waters, too, because storm water does not get treated!



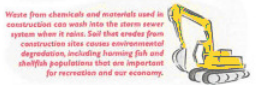
Pet wastes left on the ground get carried away by storm water, contributing harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses to our water.



Vehicles drip fluids (oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluids, etc.) onto paved areas where storm water runoff carries them through our storm drains and into our water.



Chemicals used to grow and maintain beautiful lawns and gardens, if not used properly, can run off into the storm drains when it rains or when we water our lawns and gardens.



Waste from chemicals and materials used in construction can wash into the storm sewer system when it rains. Soil that erodes from construction sites causes environmental degradation, including harming fish and shellfish populations that are important for recreation and our economy.

Where To Go To Continue the Information Flow

Your community is preventing storm water pollution through a storm water management program. This program addresses storm water pollution from construction, new development, illegal dumping to the storm sewer system, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices in municipal operations. It will also continue to educate the community and get everyone involved in making sure the only thing that storm water contributes to our water is ... water! Contact your community's storm water management program coordinator or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for more information about storm water management.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
www.dep.state.pa.us

When it rains, it drains. But what happens to the water that runs off your roof, driveway, or lawn? Storm water runoff can carry pollutants like oil, grease, and chemicals into our waterways. This is why it's important to keep your property clean and free of pollutants. Here are some tips to help you do that:

1. Don't pour oil, grease, or chemicals down the drain.
2. Don't use pesticides or fertilizers.
3. Don't use a leaf blower or lawnmower.
4. Don't use a pressure washer.
5. Don't use a hose.
6. Don't use a garden hose.
7. Don't use a garden hose.
8. Don't use a garden hose.
9. Don't use a garden hose.
10. Don't use a garden hose.

