



# Storm Water Protection Tips

Water in the storm drain does not receive any treatment or filtering like the water that goes down the drain in your home. This means that whatever goes down a storm drain will end up directly polluting streams and rivers. Remember it is illegal to dump or discharge waste and pollutants into a storm drain.

## 1. Adopt a Storm Drain

Take care of the storm drain in front of your house. Keep leaves, grass clippings and other debris off of the street so they will not be washed into storm drains.

## 2. No More Clippings

When mowing the yard, do not blow clippings into the street or onto paved surfaces as the grass clippings may enter the storm drain, which will enter in our rivers, lakes, and streams. Also do not clean or wash the lawn mower near the storm drain.

## 3. Loose Dirt Hurts

If you have uncovered soil on your property from construction or landscaping, that loose soil can become a real problem in our streams and rivers. Be sure to use silt fencing or even a tarp on large piles of loose soil. Use mulch and ground cover where ever possible to cover bare soil in your landscaping.



## 4. Only Rain Down the Drain

Remember, only rain down the storm drain! Do not dispose of yard waste, old paint, motor oil, soap suds, dirt, or pet waste down the storm drain.

## 5. How Much is Too Much

When putting fertilizer or pesticides on your lawn or garden, be sure to follow the directions on the bag. Be careful not to use more than recommended. Avoid putting anything on your lawn immediately before it rains. Your money and time is wasted and the extra ends up down the drain, not on your lawn.

## 6. Use a Rain Harvesting Barrel

You can help by increasing the number of rain drops that soak into the ground by using a rain barrel and directing downspouts onto your lawn or rain gardens.