

STORMWATER

TIP OF THE WEEK Week 33 - AUGUST, 16 2022

DO NOT FEED THE STORM DRAINS!

When grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, automotive products, fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals wash down a storm drain, they don't go away. They flow into streams, rivers and lakes. They end up harming plants and animals plus contaminating the water we drink. The technical term is "nonpoint source pollution." Here's how to make sure that you don't help feed the storm drain:

HOME

Choose cleaning products that are phosphate free, biodegradable or nontoxic, especially if they are used outdoors. Vinegar is a great cleaner.

Discourage insects with good housekeeping, clean counter tops regularly and leave nothing out for them to munch on. Also look at non-toxic ways to detour them verse harmful chemicals.

YARD

Fall is a great time to fertilize but do not over fertilize. Adding extra does not mean it will work better. Sweep (do not wash) fertilizer and soil off driveways and walkways.

Use native plants and grasses, adding more plants to your yard can help soak up more stormwater runoff.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and to insulate and nourish the soil or add them to your compost.

Clean and dispose of leaves as they fall, so you aren't overwhelmed once they've all fallen. When they aren't cleaned up they can easily cause a storm drain to become clogged.

Be careful when choosing pest control methods. Many of these products are harmful to more than just the pests you are trying to control.

VEHICLES

Fix and clean up vehicle leaks quickly. Recycle motor oil, filters, fluids and batteries by taking them to service station that has a recycling program.

Wash your car in the grass on at a professional car wash so the soap, grease, and grime does not flow into our storm drains.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous waste should never be disposed of in the trash or down any drain. You can always call the DEP at 304-558-5938 for household hazardous waste questions and help. Call 1-800-642-3074 immediately to report a spill.

PETS

Clean up your pet's fecal waste. This waste can contain harmful bacteria that can easily be washed into a storm drain in a good rain.

Encourage friends and family to pick up after their pets using a mutt mitt or plastic, disposable bag and never allow pet waste to wash into storm drains.

