STORMWATER

STORMWATER TIPS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

SIDEWALKS & DRIVEWAYS

Streets, sidewalks, and driveways are sources of water pollution. Oil leaking from cars is a major cause of water pollution. Spilled or leaked antifreeze kills fish and other aniamals when it reaches streams. Remember, most of the water from your driveway and sidewalk flows directly into streams from our city's storm sewer system without any treatment. Sweep walkways and driveways rather than hosing debris into storm drains.

LESS SUDS

Keep suds out of storm drains.
Use low-phosphate soaps when you wash your car. Wash your car on the lawn rather than the driveway. Do not dump detergents or cleaning compounds into storm drains and/or local waterways. Consider washing your car at a carwash, which disposes of the wash water properly.

PET WASTE

Clean up pet waste. Pet waste left in yards and else where can cause harmful pathogens to be carried into out storm drains leading straight to our local streams and rivers.

CONTROL RUNOFF & EROSION

Removing vegetation or covering the ground with pavement and buildings prevents water from soaking into the soil. During rainstorms, this water flows across the ground, picking up oil, pesticides, fertilizers, grit, or anything else that will float, dissolve or be moved along. These pollutants are carried into surface and ground water. You can help prevent water pollution by retaining natural ground cover whenever possible. Stabilize areas of bare soil with vegetation as soon as possible after grading. Plant more trees and shrubs, they capture and hold a lot of rain before it reaches the ground. Wherever possible, keep existing trees and bushes and plant more.

Some other great ways to help prevent water pollution are to direct your downsputs over yout lawn (but not onton your neighbor) or construct French drains (gravel-filled trenches) whenever possible. Collect roof water with a rain barrel and you'll have water to water your garden later!