

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 25: June 23, 2021

STORMWATER TIPS FOR SUMMER

Now that summer is officially here- outdoor activities such as swimming, fishing, car washing and lawn care are a part of our regular activities. All of these activities have one central thing in common: they can impact our waterways, the Kanawha River and Lake Ridenour.

Stormwater runoff is precipitation that doesn't soak into the ground where it falls. When rain hits hard, impervious surfaces (driveways, sidewalks, streets, rooftops, parking lots) it's channeled toward stormwater drainage systems and that runoff picks up pollutants along the way. In many communities, like in Nitro, these drainage

systems empty into natural our waterways without treatment, but with just a few small acts or changes you can help prevent water pollution!

Here are some tips for the summer season to help prevent water pollution:

☑ Properly dispose of all trash, rubbish and garbage. Trash that is left in your yard, or on the street will eventually end up in the closest stream or river.

☑ Place your cigarette butts in the proper receptacle. Don't throw them on the ground.

☑ Clean up after your pet. Place pet waste in a trash receptacle or flush down the toilet. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that will wash into our streams and rivers when it rains.

☑ Use fertilizers and pesticides only when needed. Fertilizers promote algae growth in our waterways. When using fertilizers, follow application instructions and do not apply if rain is forecasted.

☑ Compost yard & grass clippings. Don't allow your grass clippings to blow into the street, or curb.

☑ Check your vehicles for leaks and repair them!

☑ Add stormwater management to your property like a rain garden, planting trees, or a rain barrel. Stormwater runoff is most effectively controlled by slowing the water down and allowing it to infiltrate back into the ground slowly.

