

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 27: July 7, 2021

LITTER & STORMWATER



Litter is waste products that have been disposed of improperly like in an inappropriate area. It affects the quality of life for our community in many ways including like: (1) Clogging our stormwater system which in turn can cause flooding. (2) Entering our stormwater system which can end up polluting our drinking water system and can causes more expense in the treatment of our drinking water. (3) Degrading the ecosystem by harming animals that get trapped in or ingest waste products. (4) Plus, it just doesn't look good for our community.

TRASH How long does it really last?



There are many things you can do as an individual, family, and community to help keep St. Albans free of litter.

1. Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter. Carrying a personal ashtray is a great way to prevent litter. You can also make sure the ember is completely extinguished and then dispose of the butt in the trash.
2. Do not litter the streets with trash, including liquid chemicals. Any litter left along the streets will easily be washed into our storm drains and can directly affect our local waterways and can even cause flooding.
3. Do not sweep grass clippings and garden waste into streets or over sidewalks. This includes being aware of how you administer your fertilizer, ensuring it does not find its way into our storm sewer system.
4. Never pour household chemicals into storm drains or on streets and always dispose of hazardous waste properly! You can call the WV DEP for any hazardous waste questions at 304-558-5938.
5. When washing your car, do it on your lawn or at a professional car wash to minimize impacts from soap, mud, oil, and grease entering into our storm sewer system and into our local waterways.
6. Pick up after your dog. Take a plastic bag or another suitable container to collect those little presents your dog leaves behind when you go for a walk. Your pet's fecal waste can add harmful bacteria to our local waterways.

Want to help out more?

Look for volunteer opportunities with Coal River Group, West Virginia Litter Getter, the WV DEP, or do your own clean up while you're out walking! Any small action can help!

