

# STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 4: Jan. 26, 2021

**Non-point source pollutions (NPS pollution)** is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. For Nitro NPS pollution directly affects the Kanawha River.

## NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION



### WHAT CAUSES NPS POLLUTION?

The illustration above shows some of the primary activities that generate nonpoint source pollution. These include farming and grazing activities, timber harvesting, new development, construction, recreational boating. Manure, pesticides, fertilizers, dirt, oil, and gas produced by these activities are examples of NPS pollutants. Contaminated stormwater washed off parking lots, roads and highways, and lawns. Even households contribute to NPS pollution through improper chemical and pesticide use, landscaping, and other household practices.

### WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME?

- clean up pet waste and trash
- limit the amount of fertilizers and pesticides used, follow the directions, and use them when rain is not in the forecast
- use environmentally friendly cleaning products

### HOW CAN WE HELP?

WVDEP has a program to help prevent NPS called Watershed Improvement Branch (WIB). WIB's mission is "To inspire and empower people to value and work for clean water". They coordinate multi-agency and non-government organizations efforts to address nonpoint pollution by: Providing assistance in the proper installation and maintenance of (BMPs); supporting citizen based watershed organizations; supporting partners whose activities relate to nonpoint issues; and restoring impaired watersheds with nonpoint abatement projects. Check out more at [dep.wv.gov](http://dep.wv.gov)

- implement stormwater management practices at home like a rain garden, planting trees, installing rain barrels, etc.
- dispose of hazardous chemicals properly
- clean up and fix vehicle leaks promptly