

# STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 5: Feb 2, 2021

## HOW TO HELP PREVENT WATER POLLUTION

### GO PLASTIC FREE

A lot of our water ways have become over run with disposable plastics.

Using reusable shopping totes, refillable bottles, and recycling more can help keep those disposable plastic out of landfills and water ways.

### GO GREEN

Use environmentally friendly products. When you're washing something, that soap and/or cleaner is typically washed down a drain of some sort; which eventually goes into our water ways, whether it filters through treatment or not. Especially outside, stormdrains lead straight to our local waterways.

Going green with everyday household cleaners can relieve our water ways of some pollution. Some great 'green' cleaners are: Vinegar, Castile Soap, Young Living Thieves products, ECOS products, Seventh Generation products, or Fit Organic products.

### CLEAN UP

Clean up around you. Cleaning up vehicle leaks, pet waste, trash, and debris will help to prevent water pollution by keeping those items and more from being washed down the driveway, along the street, into a storm drain, and into our water ways without being treated or filtered.

### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater management is a great way to help prevent water pollution. Poorly managed stormwater runoff can cause a host of problems such as flooding, pollution, and stream bank erosion. As a homeowner, you can help avoid the problems associated with stormwater runoff by developing a stormwater management plan involving one or more of these practices to your property.

**Rain barrel** - A barrel to capture & store roof runoff for later use, such as watering plants or gardens.

**Planting trees** - Planting native trees & shrubs to help stormwater soak in to the ground.

**Pervious pavers** - Impervious stone, concrete or brick, laid with space in between to allow for pervious areas (gravel, sand or vegetation) in driveways or walkways.

**Rain garden** - A depressed garden that uses mulch, soil, & deep-rooted native plants to capture, absorb, & infiltrate stormwater runoff

**Riparian barrier** - Planting native trees & shrubs along streams & wetlands. These "riparian buffers" filter runoff & have numerous water quality benefits.

**Native meadow** - An area planted with native grasses & wildflowers & maintained as a natural area.

"No mow" areas can also develop into meadow areas.

### VOLUNTEER & TEACH

Volunteering to help clean up our city & rivers is a great way to help prevent water pollution. Plus taking children or friends can help to teach them the importance as well!

