MUNICIPAL PROGRAM

Here are some of the most important steps your community can take to control storm water pollution:

- Prevent the release into the storm sewer system of hazardous substances such as used oil or household or yard chemicals.
- Make sure new commercial and residential developments include storm water management controls, such as reducing areas of paved surfaces to allow storm water to seep into the ground.
- Collect samples of storm water from industrial sites to see whether pollutants are being released. If so, identify the type and quantity of pollutants being released.
- Design and institute flood control projects in a way that does not impair water quality.
- Prevent runoff of excess pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides by using them properly and efficiently. (Commercial, institutional, and residential landscapes can be designed to prevent pollution, conserve water, and look beautiful at the same time.)
- Make sure that construction sites control the amount of soil that is washed off by rain into waterways.
- Promote citizen participation and public group activity to increase awareness and education at all levels. Encourage local collection pick-up days and recycling of household hazardous waste materials to prevent their disposal into storm drains.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRAM

Most permits issued under the storm water program require development and use of a storm water pollution prevention plan. Such plans describe how the facility will prevent storm water from becoming polluted by making sure that:

- Potential pollutants are not left outside uncovered
- Spills are prevented
- If spills occur, they are cleaned up right away
- There is no dumping of polluting substances into storm drains
- Grass and other vegetation is planted as quickly as possible after soils are disturbed

Some permits may require more extensive pollution control.

A northwest city, recognizing the need for storm water management, set up a special water utility to oversee all local government storm water control activities and to raise the money for storm water projects. The city collects fees from citizens using the storm water sewer system and uses the funds to implement storm water programs. The program is still successfully providing funds for such varied purposes as flood control, maintenance of existing storm water controls, and public education.

A manufacturing facility located in a large midwestern city took an innovative approach to storm water management. Employees at a plant with a large fueling station noticed that during a rain storm, the runoff flowing into the city’s storm sewer system had an oily sheen, caused by spilled fuel. To prevent future spills, the plant trained its drivers to avoid overfilling fuel tanks, laid down sawdust around the fueling station to absorb any accidental spills (the plant is careful not to wash the sawdust down the drain), and installed an oil/water separator to remove oil from the runoff before the runoff enters the storm drain.
WHAT IS STORM WATER?

Storm water is water that flows onto streets, roads, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces and then flows into water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, etc.). This water can carry debris and pollutants into our waterways, causing harm to both the environment and our health.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND HUMANS?

Storm water can have negative effects on both plants and animals. It can wash away soil and nutrients from the ground, leading to soil erosion and loss of plant life. For animals, storm water can cause habitat destruction and harm to wildlife. For humans, storm water can cause flooding, erosion, and pollution of our waterways.

WHAT CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

Your EPA Regional Office (Water Management Division)

1. EPA Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
   JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, MA 02203
   617-565-3478
2. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI)
   26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278
   212-264-2513
3. EPA Region 3 (DE, MD, PA, VA, WV, DC)
   841 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107
   215-597-9410
4. EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, TN, TX)
   3424 Piedmont Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30308
   404-331-5880
5. EPA Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, WI, IA)
   800 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
   312-820-3232
6. EPA Region 6 (AZ, CO, NM, TX, NM)
   1445 Ross Ave., Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75202
   214-655-7100
7. EPA Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)
   1901 SW 10th St., Kansas City, MO 64105
   816-526-6080
8. EPA Region 8 (CO, UT, WY, MT, ID, SD)
   2 South Main St., Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202
   303-293-1542
9. EPA Region 9 (AZ, CA, GA, HI, NV)
   75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105
   415-754-8083
10. EPA Region 10 (OR, ID, WA)
    1200 Sixth Ave., Seattle, WA 98101
    206-553-1793

Other sources include:
- Storm Water Hotline (703) 821-4823
- State and Local Agencies

COMMON CONTRIBUTORS TO STORM WATER POLLUTION

Debris along street picked up by storm water.

WHY IS STORM WATER A PROBLEM?

Storm water is a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. The pollutants are deposited untreated into our waterways. The result can be the closing of our beaches, no swimming, fishing or boating, and injury to the plants and animals that live in or use the water.

WHAT ARE THESE POLLUTANTS WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THEIR EFFECTS ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND HUMANS?

The following information will answer these questions and let you know what you and your community can do to help recognize where there could be a problem and what to do to help solve it!

EPA has a storm water program that, with your help, can keep our rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans clean to use and enjoy, and healthy for plants and animals to live in.

WHERE DOES THE STORM WATER GO AFTER IT DRAINS INTO STORM SEWERS?

Storm water that does not seep into the ground, drains into systems of underground pipes or roadside ditches and may travel for many miles before being released into a lake, river, stream, wetland area, or coastal waters.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

Your EPA Regional Office (Water Management Division)

1. EPA Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
   JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, MA 02203
   617-565-3478
2. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI)
   26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278
   212-264-2513
3. EPA Region 3 (DE, MD, PA, VA, WV, DC)
   841 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107
   215-597-9410
4. EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, TN, TX)
   3424 Piedmont Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30308
   404-347-4450
5. EPA Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, WI, IA)
   800 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
   312-820-3232
6. EPA Region 6 (AZ, CO, NM, TX, NM)
   1445 Ross Ave., Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75202
   214-655-7100
7. EPA Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)
   1901 SW 10th St., Kansas City, MO 64105
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Other sources include:
- Storm Water Hotline (703) 821-4823
- State and Local Agencies

COMMON CONTRIBUTORS TO STORM WATER POLLUTION

Debris washed up on the beach by storm water.

DO I HELP?

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

1. Keep debris out of storm water flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. The pollutants are deposited untreated into our waterways. The result can be the closing of our beaches, no swimming, fishing or boating, and injury to the plants and animals that live in or use the water.

2. Maintain good landscaping practices with tight, well trimmed grass and shrubs. Water the lawn, use minimal pesticides, and use non-chemical methods to control weeds.

3. Maintain storm water systems on your property. Storm water systems, such as gutters, roof downspouts, and storm water drainage areas, can be a source of pollution. Regularly clean gutters and downspouts to prevent debris from entering our waterways.

4. Use permeable paving. Permeable paving allows water to infiltrate the ground, reducing the amount of storm water that can flow into our waterways.

5. Avoid using chemicals on your property. When using chemicals, follow the instructions on the label and use the minimum amount of product necessary to control weeds and pests.

6. Use rain barrels to collect rainwater. Rain barrels can be used to collect rainwater for gardening and other uses, reducing the amount of storm water that enters our waterways.

7. Plant native plants. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and can help reduce erosion, improve water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife.

8. Keep your yard clean. Keep your yard free of debris and trash that can be carried away by storm water.

9. Report problems. If you see a problem with storm water, report it to the appropriate authorities.

10. Educate others. Educate your family, friends, and neighbors about the importance of protecting our waterways.

OTHER SOURCES:

- Storm Water Hotline (703) 821-4823
- State and Local Agencies

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