

What You Can Do at Home

Tips to prevent water pollution and protect stream water quality in the Spring and Summer

These Simple activities can prevent stormwater runoff pollution in the spring and summer. (Stormwater runoff pollution is a major cause of water pollution in our urban and suburban streams.)



- Keep Paved Surfaces Clean.** Help keep neighborhood streets, storm drains and streams clean by controlling waste and debris on land. Use dry methods to collect and remove waste and avoid hosing and washing debris and pollutants into streets and storm drains. This includes excess mulch, grass clippings, leaves, debris, dirt, litter, fluids, residues, waste water, as well as leftover road sand/grit.
- ★ Sweep and remove litter and debris to prevent its dispersal into storm drains and streets.
 - ★ Use a broom and dust pan or blower and shovel to collect and dispose of litter and debris.
 - ★ Do not use street sewers and inlets, roadside ditches and culverts for disposal.
 - ★ Locate stockpiled materials such as sand, mulch, topsoil, away from stormwater flow path. A well-secured and anchored tarp or other water repellent cover can temporarily contain stored material and prevent dispersal by wind, rain and runoff.



Lawn and Landscaping Spring Cleanup

- ★ Aerate your lawn to help rain and runoff soak into the ground and support a healthier lawn
- ★ Amend soil with organic material, such as homemade compost.
- ★ Test your soil before planting and applying products and amendments to optimize lawn and garden growth. (Go to www.aasl.psu.edu for information about sending soil samples to Penn State University lab for soil analysis.)
- ★ Prevent over compaction of soil which can occur when working in and walking on wet soil.
- ★ Consider applying granular products, such as fertilizer, in liquid form to improve absorption and reduce product dispersal and runoff.
- ★ If using weed killer, read instructions carefully and only apply product in optimum weather to avoid polluting runoff.
- ★ Remind landscape contractors about pollution control measures to prevent water pollution.

Fish Friendly Fact

Nutrients (including nitrogen and phosphorus) support plant growth on our lawns and gardens, but used excessively get washed away by rainwater and are a source of stormwater runoff pollution. Nutrients are a common pollutant impacting water quality in local waterbodies. High nutrient levels cause accelerated algae growth; which, in turn, can deplete dissolved oxygen needed to sustain fish and aquatic life in our waterways.



House Cleaning – Indoors and Out

- ★ If power washing is necessary, direct wash water onto well-stabilized (i.e., grassy) ground where it can soak into soils and not discharge into streets, storm drains and streams.
- ★ Dispose of all waste water from cleanup, maintenance, and repair activities properly not into streets, storm drains, or streams.
- ★ Clean roof gutters to keep them free of debris that can create clogs and retain water.