

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

WATER MATTERS

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Only Rain Should Go In a Storm Drain

Every time it rains, water that is not absorbed by the land picks up pollutants and sediment while rushing to the nearest storm drain. Improving the quality of water that reaches the storm drains, and ultimately our rivers and streams, can be as simple as adopting some of the practices below:

- ◆ **Responsible Lawn Care** When applying chemicals to your lawn, follow the manufacturer's directions to avoid over-applying; these chemicals can runoff into the sewer system and degrade our rivers and streams.
- ◆ **Don't Misuse Storm Drains** Remember that storm drains are not trash cans. Household hazardous waste (HHW) such as motor oil, antifreeze and many cleaning agents should be disposed of properly at a HHW collection facility.
- ◆ **Support Local Efforts** Support the efforts of your local government to improve stormwater quality and quantity, and understand that there are a multitude of ways you can be involved in protecting your water quality.
- ◆ **Don't be a Litter Bug** Put trash in its place, or it could end up in our rivers and streams.
- ◆ **Pick Up Pet Waste** Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in your toilet or trash so that rain doesn't wash it into the storm drains.
- ◆ **Conserve Water** Using less water on your lawn and garden means less chemical runoff into the storm drains. Try grasses and plants that are native to our area- native species usually require less water and fertilizers than non-native species.
- ◆ **Reduce Impervious Surfaces** Surfaces such as roofs, driveways and concrete patios do not allow rainwater to filter back into the soil, forcing the water into storm drains. Instead of concrete patios, asphalt driveways and paved paths, try wood decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways and mulched paths.
- ◆ **Try Rain Barrels** Rain barrels collect the water coming from your gutters during rainfall. This water can then be used to water your lawn or wash your car and lower your overall water consumption.