

Chemicals & Stormwater

Are you considering the use of chemicals on your land?

Substances like fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are commonly misused in the urban and suburban environment. The unabsorbed chemicals will wash off with the next rainfall and flow into your nearest storm drain straight into the rivers.

This excess is what feeds the Blue-green algae that are occurring regularly on our lakes and ponds.

If you plan on using chemicals, please use the "Four "R's" rule:



Right Rate

Are you using the right amount?

Right Place

Does your soil need all the nutrients you are applying?

Right Time

What is the absorption time? Is rain imminent?

Right Source

Are you using only the nutrients your soil needs?

Always take safety precautions with chemicals and read the directions.

Please try to avoid application anytime rain is predicted.

RIVER CLEAN-UPS

Join the thousands of citizens who have participated in river clean-ups!

Your church, school or civic group can enter, or simply come alone to join with other involved citizens.



Who to Contact:

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

(260) 449-7139

www.acwater.org

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Stormwater Pollution

A Reference Guide for Residents



Why Should I Care About Stormwater?

Every time it rains, water that is not absorbed by the ground runs off rooftops, roads, driveways and lawns. On the way, this runoff picks up hazardous materials such as oil and anti-freeze, fertilizer and pesticides, litter and pet waste and other pollutants. This stormwater is not treated by and is deposited directly into rivers, lakes and streams.

Uncontrolled stormwater can affect your life by negatively impacting the quality of water in our local rivers and streams. It can impact the wildlife in the area and create unhealthy habitat. Erosion of sediment into the water can block light from aquatic plants, fill niches where fish lay eggs, and clog fish gills. Polluted stormwater can affect the process by which our drinking water is filtered, causing the water filtration plant to do more extensive and expensive filtering and sanitizing.

What Can I Do?

There are several ways you can affect the quantity and quality of water that flows off your property and into the sewer and storm drain systems:

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 can end up in our rivers and streams. Refuse. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.



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 the stormdrains. Instead of concrete patios, asphalt driveways and paved paths, try wood decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways and mulched paths.

Conserve Water-Using less water on your lawn or garden means less chemical runoff into the stormdrains.

Don't Misuse Stormdrains-Remember the stormdrains are not trash cans. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) such as motor oil, anti-freeze and many cleaning agents should be disposed of properly at a HHW collection facility.



Pick Up Pet Waste-Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in your toilet or trash so it doesn't wash into stormdrains.

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.



**WE ALL LIVE UP OR
DOWNSTREAM FROM EACH
OTHER**

STORM DRAIN MARKING

Does your neighborhood association, school, church or civic group want to be involved in preventing stormwater pollution?

Become a part of your local storm drain Marking Program by affixing a special "No Dumping-Drains to River" emblem on storm drains.

This will raise awareness to friends, neighbors and other residents that what flows down those drains is not treated before reaching the river.

Volunteer for the Storm Drain Marking Program.



The **ACPWQ** can refer you to the Storm Drain Marking Program



coordinator in your area. All materials and instruction necessary to mark these drains will be included.

Call today at (260) 449-7625 to become part of a program that will serve as an important reminder about stormwater pollution for years to come.

**Remember,
ONLY RAIN
DOWN THE STORM DRAIN**