



## WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Stormwater is rain or snow that falls on roofs, lawns or paved areas like driveways and roads and is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes or culverts and ditches. As it flows over the land surface, stormwater picks up or is contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This untreated water is discharged into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

Contaminated or polluted stormwater can lead to significant water quality problems.

- Sediment clouds the water making it difficult for aquatic habits.
- Oxygen levels can become depleted, killing fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Bacteria and other pathogens discharged in swimming areas create a health hazard.
- Debris washed into the water can choke, suffocate or disable wildlife and fish.
- Household hazardous wastes such as pesticides, paint and auto fluids can poison aquatic life.



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For more information about City-Wide Clean-Up dates and activities, visit the City Website at [sturgis-sd.gov](http://sturgis-sd.gov), or "like" us on Facebook!



## STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

*You can make a difference.  
Help keep our waterways clean!*

# HOW CAN YOU PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION?

## Lawn & Garden Maintenance

- Choose organic lawn chemicals whenever possible.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.
- Select native plants & grasses that are drought tolerant and pest resistant.
- Compost or recycle yard waste.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch to prevent them from washing into drains.
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas.
- Plant grass or vegetation where soil is exposed.
- Avoid oversalting walkways and driveways in the winter.



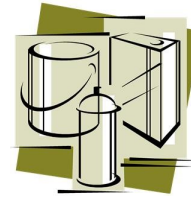
## Swimming Pool and Spa Care

- Drain your pool only when the test kit does not detect chlorine levels. This can be accomplished with neutralizing chemicals.
- Never drain your pool or spa into a storm drain.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area.



## Hazardous waste and solvents

- Use hazardous substances (paint, solvents, cleaners) in the smallest amounts possible.
- Store hazardous waste substances properly in leak-proof containers inside
- Filter and reuse paint thinner.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Dispose of solvent waste by following the instructions printed on the label.
- All appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers and sump pumps must drain into the sanitary sewer or a septic tank.



## Cigarette Butts and Other Trash

- Filters found in cigarettes surpass plastic straws as a major ocean contaminant! Put your cigarette butts and other litter in garbage bins.
  - If there is no garbage bin handy, hold onto your litter until you find one.
  - Pitch in and help clean up littered areas.
  - Properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.



*Common pollutants include antifreeze, detergents, fertilizers, gasoline, household chemicals, motor oil, paints, pesticides, pet waste, road salt, solvents, and yard waste.*

## Vehicle Maintenance and Repair

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain, culvert or ditch.
- Never clean the undercarriage of your car at home. Oil and grease can contaminate shallow groundwater.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain, in culverts or ditches. Do not dispose of them in your trash.



## Pet Waste Management

- Pick up the poop! When walking your pet, always carry a plastic bag and dispose of it properly.
- Dog waste carries high levels of E. coli bacteria, and is a major contributor to local water pollution.
- Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method.
- Do not dispose of pet waste near storm drains, culverts, ditches or water bodies.

