

How Can You Help Protect Your Stormwater

Use household and garden products carefully: Use as little as possible and least toxic alternative to achieve your goals around the house, garden, or when working on your car. Avoid detergents with phosphates, and limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Use products cautiously and dispose of them properly. Make use of household hazardous waste drives and never pour anything down a storm drain. Dispose of pet wastes properly: Pet wastes are a major source of pollution when left in open areas. Flush them or bury them away from any body of water.

Leave a natural buffer around streams and wetlands: When we landscape around our homes, we sometimes remove trees and natural vegetation and pave over natural surfaces. These activities contribute to erosion. The temperature of water running off these surfaces is increased which is harmful to fish. When we dump debris (even natural yard waste) near streams or drainage areas, it creates pollution and flooding problems. Heavy rain or over-watering can wash garden chemicals from our yards into storm drains and then to our surfacewaters. There they change the natural balance of microorganisms and encourage algae blooms.

Look at how you use your automobile: Use transit or carpool whenever you can. Anything that reduces your use of your car will help protect water quality. Keep your car tuned up and well maintained. Dripping oil and auto exhaust emissions readily wash into storm drains which drain directly to streams and lakes.