Stormwater

is defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency as:

> ***Rainwater and melted snow that runs off streets, lawns, farms, and construction and industrial sites.***

Stormwater flows over **impervious surfaces** (those that do not allow water to pass through), carrying pollution we leave behind to our lakes, rivers, creeks, streams and ponds.

Surface Waters

This term refers to any natural or man made body of water:

- Lakes
- Ponds
- Wetland Areas
- Creeks
- Streams
- Branches
- Rivers
- Etc...

Concord
NORTH CAROLINA
High Performance Living

TO REPORT POLLUTION,

PLEASE CALL OUR

24 HOUR

CUSTOMER CARE CENTER

704-920-5555

City of Concord
Stormwater Services Department
704-920-5360
www.concordnc.gov
850 Warren C. Coleman Blvd
Concord, NC 28025

Stormwater Pollution

Did you know...

Storm drains lead directly into waters we use for swimming, fishing and drinking?

Learn how you can help keep our water clean!

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Sediment/Silt

Silt is the #1 water pollutant in the country! Caused by erosion and construction activities which remove the plants that keep soil in place.

Effects:

-Clouds water, blocking sunlight needed by plants & animals.

-Increases water temperature

-Impairs feeding, vision, and breathing capabilities of animals.

-Falls to the bottom, upsetting the fragile habitat & fish spawning area and reducing channel flow capacity.

Oil & Grease

Generated from kitchens, machinery and vehicles & carried by stormwater when disposed of improperly.

Effects:

-Blocks sunlight & decreases oxygen needed by underwater plants & animals

-Damages bottom habitat by clinging to dirt particles and settling on the bottom.

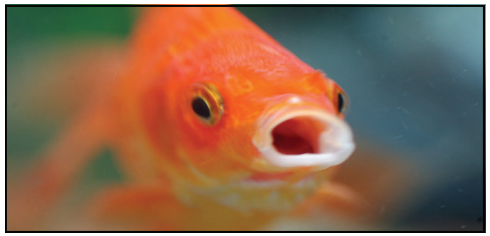
-Can reduce storm drainage system capacity.

Soaps &Detergents

Come from household appliance leaks, improper plumbing, washing cars over paved areas, and improper use and disposal.

Effects:

Coat gills & suffocate fish and other aquatic animals.



How You Can Help!

* Clean up after your pet.
* Plant a tree!
* Be sure to properly dispose of cooking oils, fats & grease.
* Wash vehicles & machinery over the lawn or at a commercial carwashes, NOT over paved surfaces. (Be aware of any water conservation rules or guidelines.)
* Use only *enough* fertilizer. Leaving grass clippings to decompose naturally on the lawn keeps storm drains clear & will *recycle* fertilizer, keeping us from having to re-apply so often.

* *Sweep* excess fertilizer from paved surfaces. Washing with water increases the chances of getting it in the storm drain.
* RECYCLE or properly dispose of chemicals and automobile fluids!
* Compost! Turn yard waste and kitchen scraps into a beneficial soil amendment.
* Give your lawn or garden *just enough* to drink and/or install a rain barrel to create less stormwater <u>and</u> conserve water .
* Make sure your dishwasher, washing machine, sinks, and showers are piped to the sanitary sewer system, NOT the storm drain!
* Perform a soil test at your home to determine how much and which type of fertilizer is best for your lawn.

Fertilizers

Plants can only use so much! Leftovers are carried away by stormwater, and often end up in bodies of water, increasing levels of nitrates and phosphates.

Effects:

-Upsets natural nutrient balances.

-Increases algae growth in surface waters

-Decreases oxygen levels in water often killing aquatic plants and animals.

Pesticides, Herbicides, Automobile Fluids & Other Chemicals

Careless use & disposal of chemicals is a danger to all living things.

Effects:

Kill and/or disrupt bodily & reproductive functions of plants and animals when present in aquatic habitats.

Yard Waste

Enters surface waters when leaves & grass clippings make their way onto paved surfaces.

Effects:

-Carry applied fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides & reduces water quality.

-Along with other debris, blocks storm drains, grates, or otherwise clogs the storm drainage system leading to reduced capacity, standing water and flooding.

Pet Waste

Contains dangerous bacteria and high levels of nitrates and phosphates.

Effects:

-Increases algae growth and decreases oxygen levels in aquatic habitats, harming plants and animals.

-Increases bacteria (*E. coli*) levels in water, making fishing and swimming dangerous.