

What is Storm Water Runoff??

In open fields, forests and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called storm water or storm water runoff) enters local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

What is Storm Water Pollution?

Unlike pollution from sewage treatment plants, storm water pollution comes from many different sources. Storm water runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution. Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil are all pollutants.

Open dumps and tire piles are also a concern to storm water pollution. Dumping typically occurs on secondary roads, along waterways, abandoned lots, open fields and even near construction sights.

If you would like to report or inquire about litter, dumping or environmental crimes, contact:

Lorain County Sheriff's Office Environmental Crimes Unit at:
440-329-3743 or 440-329-3759



Rural Storm Drains are not always clearly identified. Locate storm drains near you and remove any potential pollutants that may be washed into the drain.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Tips — What Can You Do?

General Information:

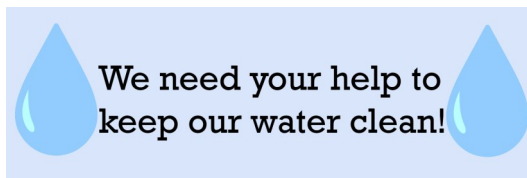
□ Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains. These drains may bypass the wastewater treatment plant and go directly to lakes or rivers.



□ If you must buy an item that is potentially hazardous, be sure to buy only as much as you need, and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage and disposal.

□ Save unused materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event in your community or you may take them directly to the **Lorain County Collection Center located at 540 S. Abbe Road in Elyria Ohio.** For information contact the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District at 440-329-5440.

You may also visit the Solid Waste Management website:
www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste



Painting:

□ Do not allow liquid paint products and wastes to drain into the ditches, street or storm drains.

□ Reuse leftover paint when possible or safely dispose of it at the Lorain County Collection Center.



Also, many local theater/performance groups and school art departments will take unused and leftover paint.

Auto maintenance:

□ Automobile fluids from leaks or maintenance changes are another source of water pollution. Americans dump enough used oil annually into landfills to equal about 13 spills the size of the Exxon Valdez spill!

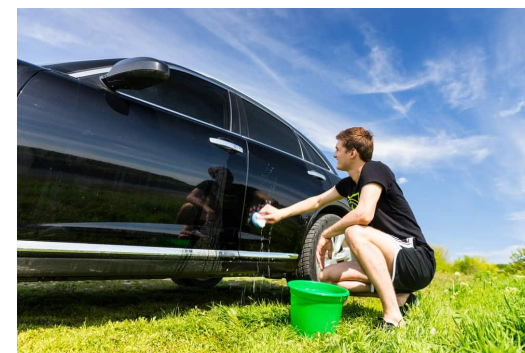


Even more oil is disposed of illegally. Much of this oil finds its way into our water. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water!

□ If you change your own oil or antifreeze, *carefully* collect all of the used oil or antifreeze in a proper container with a tight-fitting cap, and deliver it to a service or local recycling center with the oil filter.



□ Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water. Or, go to a commercial car wash that uses water efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.



Remember:

Stormwater pollution may destroy fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated food, drinking water, supplies and recreational waterways.

DIY Natural Vehicle Detailing Solutions

Car Wash Soap Recipe

- 1 cup of broken down mild soap or liquid soap
- 1 cup baby shampoo (alternative to mild soap)
- 1 bucket of warm water
- 1 to 2 buckets of cold water

To use this recipe, mix the soap in a bucket of warm water and use it to soap your car. Then, rinse it properly with cold water. This recipe is safe even for new cars because it is formulated with a mild soap mixture to prevent stripping off the car's protective wax.



Windshield & Wiper Blades Cleaner

- ¼ cup vinegar
- 2 cups distilled water
- ½ teaspoon liquid dish detergent
- 1 large spray bottle
- Microfiber cloth or soft paper towels

Pour cold water and vinegar in a large spray bottle. Add the liquid dish detergent. As soon as your windshield or windows show water spots and dirt marks, take out your solution and spritz it on the glass. You can use a soft cloth if you don't have microfiber towels to wipe them clean afterward.

* Check vehicle manual before using these solutions.



The Lorain County PIPE
C/o Lorain County Storm Water District
226 Middle Ave. 5th Floor
Elyria, Ohio 44035
Phone (440) 328-2364
Fax (440) 328-2349
Stormwater Hotline (440) 328-2364
Stormwater.loraincounty.us



Storm Water Pollution Prevention for the Home



Public Involvement Public Education

Educating the public on our impact on Lake Erie