

Watershed Trivia

- ◆ 1600% more stormwater is produced by one-acre parking lot compared to a one-acre meadow.
- ◆ A single quart of motor oil dumped down a storm drain creates a two mile oil slick.
- ◆ On average, 10 pounds of nitrogen are discharged to ground water from a properly operating septic system per person using the system each year.
- ◆ 70 million pounds of active pesticide ingredients are applied to lawns in our country each year.
- ◆ 27,200 gallons of water fall on a one-acer yard during a one-inch rainfall.
- ◆ Phosphorus, copper, zinc, and fecal coliform bacteria are the most frequently found pollutants in urban stormwater runoff.

Trivia provided by the Center for Watershed Protection

Word Scramble

Used to help plants grow, but should never be applied just before a rainstorm.

E L F R T I I R E Z

Any human-caused contamination of water that reduces its usefulness to humans and other organisms.

R T A W E

U P L O L I T N O

The total land area that drains runoff to a particular body of water.

H S E T R A W D E

Answers: fertilizer, water pollution, watershed

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Protecting
Water Quality

It is Everyone’s Responsibility



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What Can You Do?

We all have the opportunity to be part of the "Solution to Water Pollution." There are many things that we can do on a daily basis to prevent water pollution.

The Top 10 Things You Can Do to Reduce Water Pollution

1. Never dump anything that you wouldn't want to drink or swim in onto the street, down a storm drain or into a drainage ditch
2. Recycle motor oil and other vehicle fluids
3. Throw litter in its place
4. Clean up after your pet
5. Check your vehicles for leaks and repair them
6. Reduce household hazardous wastes
7. Compost leaves and yard clippings
8. Use fertilizer and pesticide sparingly
9. Wash your vehicle on your lawn rather than on pavement
10. Tell a friend or neighbor about how to prevent stormwater pollution and get involved in your community's programs



Automotive Care

At home "do-it-yourself" auto maintenance is a popular practice in our area. Each year millions of gallons of used motor oil are disposed of improperly: dripped, spilled or directly poured onto the ground or down storm drains.

Remember this the next time you maintain/repair your vehicle at home:

- Collect and recycle motor oil, oil filters and other automobile fluids at vehicle service centers or parts stores.
- If you have a spill when changing vehicle fluids, use kitty litter or sawdust to absorb the spill and then throw it in the trash.

Household Products

Toxic or hazardous household products, when used or disposed of improperly, can pollute our rivers and streams. Here are some of the ways that you can make a difference:

- Purchase only the products and amounts that you need
- Use products as directed on the label.
- When painting a large area, buy a little less paint than you think you will need. Once the job is well under way, you will have a better idea of how much more is required. This way you can plan to have enough for touch ups, but not gallons of leftover paint.
- Use latex paint instead of oil-based paint. This also eliminates the need for paint thinner.
- Discard dry paint cans and disposable brushes in the trash

Yard Care

You can make sure you have a "green" yard by following these tips:

- Don't dump grass clippings or leaves in the street, in a drainage ditch or into streams. Instead, compost or bag them for curbside collection.
- Don't over apply fertilizer. Make sure you follow the application instructions.
- Don't apply fertilizer and pesticides before heavy rain is forecasted. They will only get washed off your lawn and into the stream!
- Control pests and disease by rinsing plants, pruning and handpicking, setting baits/traps, or mulching to reduce weeds.
- Use prescription flea drops for pets instead of treating your entire lawn with harmful chemicals



How to report an illicit discharge

If you detect an illicit discharge, please contact MUPB at 606-784-5538. You should include the following information in your report:

- ♦ What does the discharge look like?
- ♦ Where is the discharge?
- ♦ Who caused the discharge?
- ♦ When did the discharge occur or when did you notice it?