Did You Know...

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals and any other pollutants as it flows over roads or lawns. In the Phoenix area, stormwater runoff does NOT go to a water treatment plant before entering our recreational or drinking waters. It is transported by drains, streets, curbs and open channels directly to retention/infiltration basins, parks, washes, canals, and community lakes.

Common Stormwater Pollutants

- Pet Waste
- Sediment
- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Motor Oil, Fuel, Grease
- Yard Waste
- Trash/Litter

Maricopa County
Environmental Services Department

Stormwater Quality Program
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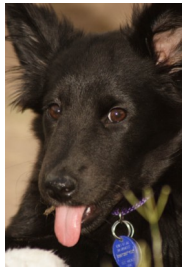
Maricopa County
Environmental Services

Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater Quality Program

Sources of Stormwater Pollution

Pets



- Pet waste may contain disease-causing bacteria
- Pet waste decays, using up dissolved oxygen, which is harmful to fish

Lawn Care

- Fertilizers and pesticides entering our water may be harmful to wildlife
- Yard clippings can clog storm drains, leading to street flooding

- Leaves and grass can decompose taking oxygen away from fish
- Too much sediment in water may make it difficult for fish to breathe
- Overwatering leads to increased runoff

Vehicle Care

- Leaking vehicles leave stains of oil, grease or other fluids on driveways and parking lots. Rain or irrigation water carries these pollutants to the storm drain.

- When washing your car, detergents and solvents may run off into the storm drain

Home Care or Repair

- Paints, solvents, adhesives and other household products may contain toxic materials
- Excess sediment from excavations can clog storm drains or harm aquatic wildlife

How Can You Reduce Stormwater Pollution?

Pets

- Carry disposable bags when walking your pet
- Pick up after your pet and dispose of in trash or flush down the toilet

Lawn Care

- Use natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers
- Don't overwater your lawn
- Plant grass or other rapid growth vegetative covers to prevent erosion
- Sweep excess lawn clippings and dispose of properly
- Don't hose soil or yard clippings into the street or storm drain

Vehicle Care

- Never dump used motor oil in the storm drain; recycle oil and other automotive fluids

- Avoid spills by using a drip pan
- Use an absorbent material, such as cat litter, to clean up spills; sweep up and properly dispose of in the trash
- Avoid hosing down the garage and driveway; sweep instead
- Wash vehicle at a commercial car wash or over a lawn or gravel area

Home Care or Repair

- Clean water-based paint from brushes in a sink, not outside with a hose
- Dispose of paint, solvents, and other toxic products properly
- Keep all construction debris away from streets, gutters, or drains
- Cover or contain excavated material to prevent erosion
- Never dispose of cement washout or concrete dust onto driveways, streets, or gutters

BE THE SOLUTION TO WATER POLLUTION