

Everyone Lives in a Watershed !

A watershed is an area of land where storm water runoff will ultimately drain to a particular stream, river, wetland or other body of water. As individuals, our actions have a direct impact on the quality of our water resources.



Storm water runoff occurs when rain falls or snow melts and flows over the surface of the ground in the watershed.

Hard surfaces like rooftops, driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Is Storm Water Runoff a Problem ?

Storm water runoff can pick up soil, trash, fertilizers, chemicals and other debris, and carry it into a storm sewer, which transports it directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland in your watershed.

Anything that enters a storm sewer goes untreated into the same waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. The way you take care of your home and yard impacts water quality.



Who Can You Contact ?

Report Illegal Dumping

To file a report, visit the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Environmental Report Form website:
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/concern.htm>

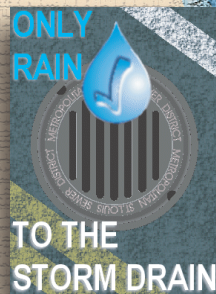
St. Louis County
Solid Waste Management Program
(314) 615-8958

Report a Spill

National Response Center
800-424-8802

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
573-634-2436

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
314-768-6260



Household Chemical Collections
Contact Saint Louis County's Customer Feedback line at (314) 615-7378 for household chemical collection events and waste recycling.

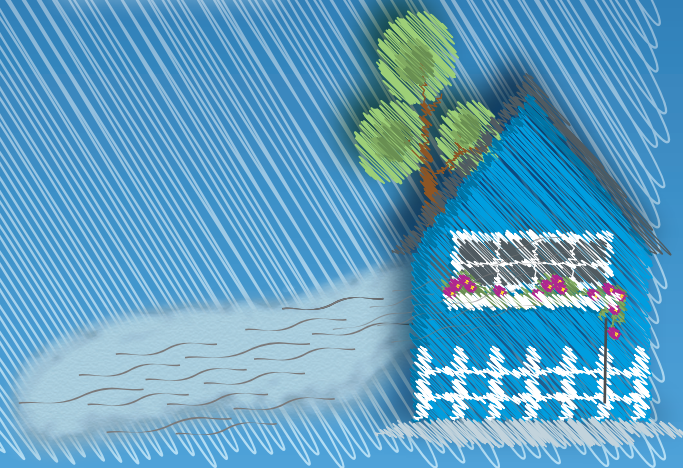
Questions and Comments

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
Division of Environmental Compliance
(314) 768-6260
or visit us on the Web at:
www.stlmsd.com



Keeping Pollutants Out of STORM Water

A Homeowner's Guide



Be a Responsible Neighbor

Did you know. . .

Water that leaves your property impacts water quality? To help protect our creeks and streams from contamination around the home. . .

⚡ Never allow pesticides, fertilizers, or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains.

⚡ Do not dump yard waste onto a creek bank or storm drain where it will be washed into creeks or rivers untreated.

⚡ Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, and recyclable products whenever possible.

⚡ If you must buy an item that is hazardous, be sure to buy only as much as you need and follow the instructions on the label, and properly dispose of the excess at a household chemical collection..

⚡ Recycle reusable materials. Cleanup discarded trash as this can be carried by runoff into the stream.

⚡ Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm drains. Instead, allow the water to flow over your lawn.

⚡ Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the vegetated areas on your property where storm water can soak into the soil.



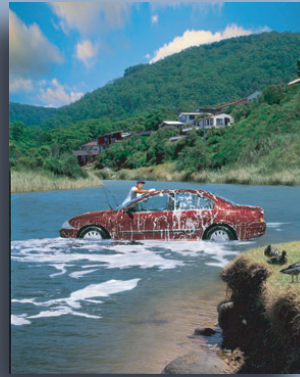
Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants, such as oil and toxic metals, to the storm sewer.

🚗 Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on your lawn or other unpaved surface so the water flows into the ground.

🚗 Repair fluid leaks as soon as possible, and dispose of used auto fluids at designated recycling centers.

🚗 Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand and properly dispose of the waste material.



Would you drink the water you wash your car in? Storm sewers carry runoff directly to our lakes and streams.

Pet Waste

Pet waste is a major source of bacteria in your watershed. To help reduce the public health risk from disposing of pet waste in your yard, and when walking your pet, please properly dispose of pet waste by. . .

🐾 Putting pet waste in a sealed bag and place it in the trash.

🐾 Flushing pet waste down the toilet. Do not flush plastic bags or kitty litter.

🐾 Burying waste in the soil at least 6 inches deep. Do not bury it in the garden or compost pile.

🐾 Having pets defecate in tall grasses (>4 inches) located away from storm inlets. The grass acts as a filter and allows the waste to naturally break down.

Pools and Spas

☀ Discharge of chlorinated water from pools, even in low concentrations, to a storm sewer or creek can kill fish and other aquatic life.

☀ Chlorinated water should be disposed so it does not enter storm sewers or surface waters.

☀ Drain residential pool or spa chlorinated water to storm water only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels and only if approved by your local municipality.



Source: The Pool Guy 2001

☀ Discharge filter backwash water from residential pools and spas into the sanitary sewer.

☀ Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills.

Septic Systems

➡ Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems can cause public health problems by discharging waste water containing bacteria in our creeks and streams.

➡ Have a professional inspect your system every 3 years.

➡ Pump the septic tank every 3 to 5 years.

➡ Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets. Household chemicals like paint, oil, and antifreeze can destroy the biological process within the septic system.

➡ Protect your septic system drain field by not driving or parking vehicles on it.

➡ Plant only grass over and near the drain field to avoid damage from tree roots.