

Easy Ways to Reduce Water Pollution

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are actions you can take to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Even if you don't own waterfront property, the things you do to your home, farm, and yard directly impact the quality of our lakes, streams, and wetlands. The stormwater that passes over your land, driveway, and sidewalk travels directly from your property to the nearest body of water (lake, stream or wetland). The runoff entering your curbside storm drain is not "cleaned" or treated before entering our lakes, streams or wetlands.



Pollutions in runoff may include sediment, yard chemicals, automotive fluids, pet or farm animal waste, and other debris. Listed below are BMPs you can practice at your home or farm to reduce nonpoint source pollution. See how you can reduce one of our largest pollution problems today.

Household Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- **Sweep up yard chemicals that spill onto hard surfaces.**
- **Clean up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash. Pet waste contains nutrients as well as harmful bacteria.**
- **Sweep grass clippings off the street, driveway, or sidewalk after mowing. Grass clippings can add phosphorus to our waters.**
- **Remove leaves and other plant debris from the street.**
- **Don't pour any waste down the stormdrain.**
- **Wash your car on the lawn or take it to a commercial car wash. Waste water at a commercial car wash is treated through the sanitary sewer system.**
- **Plant a rain garden.**
- **Allow stormwater and melting snow to soak into your yard as much as possible.**
- **Direct your downspout to your lawn or into a rain barrel for watering at a later date.**
- **Avoid directing runoff onto hard, impervious surfaces such as the driveway or sidewalk.**