

Stormwater: WHAT IS IT?



Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns. As it flows, this runoff collects and transports soil, pet manure, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, leaves, litter and other pollutants.

You don't need a heavy rain to send pollutants rushing towards streams, wetlands, lakes and oceans. A garden hose alone can supply enough water.

Even if your house is not on a waterfront, storm drains and sewers efficiently convey runoff from your neighborhood to the nearest body of water. Contrary to popular belief, most storm sewers do not carry stormwater to wastewater treatment plants. Storm and sanitary sewers may be combined in some older communities.