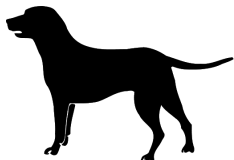


# Common Stormwater Pollutants

## And How to Prevent Them From Entering Our Waterways

### Pet Waste

Pick up after your pets. Animal waste contains E. coli as well as high levels of nitrates and phosphates. These contaminate our creeks when rain carries waste into the water. Bags and trashcans are placed along most walking trails and parks for this purpose.



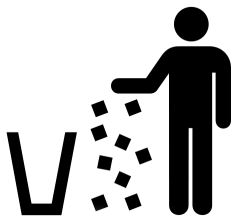
### Mop Water & Cleaning Chemicals

Mop water and cleaning chemicals can be toxic to wildlife, alter water chemistry, and add bacteria to the water. Dispose of mop water down a sink or drain connected to the sewer system so it can be treated. Check with manufacturer to see whether the chemical should be put down a sink or brought somewhere special.



### Plant Clippings & Leaves

Sweep away leaves and other yard debris from your storm drains often. They add nitrate and phosphate to the water, causing harmful algal blooms.



### Trash

Never throw trash on the ground or on a storm drain. It will end up in the creek. Always dispose of things in a trashcan or recycling bin.

### Cooking Oil & Grease

Dispose of these in the trash. Oil and grease clog pipes and create problems for wastewater plants when dumped down a sink. If they solidify, let them do so before disposal. Otherwise pour the oil in a sealable container and throw it away.



### Motor Oil , Antifreeze, Etc.

These are toxic to the water and wildlife in it. Check your car for leaks and get them fixed. When changing fluids at home, work carefully to prevent spills and NEVER dump or throw away the used oil. Check with auto stores to see how you can recycle the used fluids.



### Car Wash Soap

The soapy water and all of the pollutants washing off of your car are harmful. When washing at home, do so in the grass so that the soil can filter out these chemicals.



### Fertilizer

Fertilizer contains high levels of nitrate and phosphorus, which cause excess algae and low oxygen levels in the water that kill aquatic life. Don't over fertilize, don't apply right before a big rain, and remember to sweep up any fertilizer on pavement once you're done applying it.

## Remember...

*Dumping anything into the street, a storm drain, or waterway is **ILLEGAL**.*

