

Environmental Planning

Watershed Management

Stormwater, the nonpoint source polluter

Stormwater is drainage runoff that flows over the surface of the land resulting from rain events or snowmelt. The water enters a drain known as a storm sewer where it is either taken to a detention basin and is held before it is slowly released into the ground or nearby stream or it is discharged directly into a stream.

Stormwater can become a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows overland. Stormwater can also add large volumes of water to local creeks and streams causing erosion of stream banks and flash flooding.

Below are some ideas as to how you can help prevent stormwater pollution and additional links for further information.

Things you can do to help prevent stormwater pollution

1. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, avoiding excess to prevent polluted runoff.
2. Sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
3. Never dump anything down storm drains and report anyone who does. Dispose of your hazardous wastes properly. The County offers several household hazardous waste drop-offs throughout the year.
4. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
5. Compost your yard waste – it makes a great garden additive!
6. Report any discharges from stormwater outfalls during times of dry weather, a sign there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.
7. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces. Install innovative stormwater practices on residential property such as rain barrels or rain gardens that capture stormwater and keep it on site to infiltrate back into the groundwater instead of washing off into the nearby storm sewer system.
8. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
9. Check your car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
10. Pick up after your pet.

<http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/planning/environmental/stormwater.html>