



With thousands of storm sewer inlets around town, stormwater is a major contributor to water pollution in urban areas. Although each storm sewer inlet contributes only a small number of pollutants, when added together, pollution concentrations often exceed the limits established for industries and wastewater treatment plants. If the pollutants entering each of these inlets can be reduced, so will the pollution in local streams and lakes.

What cities can do to help:

- Adopt and enforce erosion control ordinances for construction sites.
- Require stormwater controls in all new developments.
- Install stormwater controls in existing areas where stormwater is very polluted.
- Increase spring and fall street sweeping.
- Require leaves and other yard wastes to be placed along the curb for collection rather than in the gutter.



What you can do to help:

- Do not allow soil, leaves or grass clippings to accumulate on your driveway, sidewalk or in the street.
- Do not use the storm sewer for disposing motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, paints, solvents, or other materials.
- Sweep (do not wash) fertilizer and soil off driveways and walkways onto the lawn. Any debris remaining on paved areas will quickly be washed into the nearest storm sewer during the next rainfall.
- Minimize your use of de-icing materials on sidewalks and driveways.
- Dispose of pet wastes by flushing them down the toilet or burying them.

