

**Prevent stormwater pollution at home:
Help water soak in and prevent pollutants from washing away**

Stormwater pollution occurs when rain and snowmelt runoff across the land and hard surfaces (like sidewalks, driveways, streets, and even rooftops) and wash pollutants (like fertilizers, pesticides, road salt, automobile oils, grass clippings, leaves, sand and soil, pet waste, litter, and more) into nearby storm drains that connect to our local water bodies. Simple practices reduce stormwater pollution.

Maintain a healthy lawn to keep soil in place, promote water absorption, and reduce the need for inputs like fertilizers and pesticides.

- Mow grass high (3-4" tall) to aid water and nutrient retention and shade-out weeds.
- Aerate your lawn to promote root growth and water infiltration.
- Take a soil test to help you select the appropriate fertilizer and application specific to your lawn.



Identify features and actions that can assist water absorption in your landscape. The more water that soaks into the ground means there is less water to runoff and carry pollutants to the storm drain.

- Redirect rain gutters to drain into the lawn. Keep water from running down the driveway!
- Check sprinklers for leaks and damage. Water the lawn, not the streets!
- Plant native plants which thrive in their natural environment.
- Install permeable pavers, rain barrels, and rain gardens to capture water on your landscape.



Keep sidewalks, driveways, and curbsides free of debris. Help prevent potential pollutants from being washed into the storm drains or nearby waterways.

- Sweep up grass clippings, sand, and other materials.
- Rake leaves out of the street.
- Pick up pet waste.
- Pick up litter.

