

Automobile Maintenance

Car care is important but there are ways to take care of your car and the environment!

- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze with cat litter or other absorbent material. **DO NOT** wash them into the street where they will eventually reach local streams
- If you change your own car fluids, be sure to carefully collect all used oil, or antifreeze in a proper container and deliver it to the local recycling center.
To find one call the Ohio Environmental Hotline at (800)-CLEANUP or visit www.earth911.org to find the nearest collection center
- Only wash your car when necessary and utilize a bucket to save water. Also wash your car on grassy areas to absorb the water or go to a commercial car wash

Automobile fluid from leaks or maintenance changes are a source of water pollution. Most oil finds its way into drains or drainage ditches.

1 QT of oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water!!



Painting:

- Don't allow liquid paint products to drain into the gutter, streets, and storm drains.
- Choose water-based paints like latex, instead of oil based.
- Save unused paint material for hazardous waste collection events, or reuse whenever possible

Pets:

As a pet owner, be responsible for picking up after your pets. It's the polite thing to do! Run off from pet waste is a major source of bacteria in the stream



City of Lancaster Stormwater Management

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Storm Water Pollution Prevention for the Home



Stormwater Department
Phone: 740-681-5070

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Runoff is the precipitation that falls in urbanized areas that cannot be absorbed back into the ground. Instead it enters the local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

In undeveloped areas such as fields, forests or wetlands, the same precipitation would be absorbed back into the soil or by plants and trees.

How does it become polluted?

Stormwater can become polluted from many sources. As it enters the water system it can dissolve, transport and pickup many products that can cause pollution such as; automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paint, pet waste, and even eroded soil. Litter can also be picked up as a pollutant.



What can you do?

Remember that small changes can have a big impact!

Taking a few extra, simple steps when taking care of you yard, car, trash, pets, etc. can have larger beneficial effect later on.

Start Small

- Make sure any trash is in a trashcan, as well as recycle any reusable material.

Plastics and paper are light and easily carried by water into streams and other systems. Be kind to the environment, don't litter!

- When purchasing and using chemicals, be sure to follow proper use instructions and only buy as much as you need! For disposal information

Excess chemicals are a leading cause of water pollution because it does not get absorbed back into the soil and instead gets washed into streams.

- Consider catching rainwater for later use in rain barrel. The water can later be used to water grass and gardens. Also make sure that downspouts aren't discharging to the sewer. It can cause basement backups and sewer overflows.

Rain barrels can be purchased at any hardware store or made at home. Plans can be found online.

Other Changes:

Landscaping & Gardening

- Minimize the need for pesticides by choosing plants resistant to insects and disease
- Do not overwater lawns or garden, excess can leech fertilizer into the ground.
- When you mow, set the blades to cut the grass 2 to 3 inches high and leave the clippings on the soil. The clippings help keep moisture in the ground and provide nutrients in the soil.
- When watering your garden or lawn use slow watering techniques like trickle irrigation or a soaker hose
- Don't rake clippings into a stream or creek, it can transfer fertilizer into the water and also adds to the stream pollution.
- Try not to over apply fertilizers and pesticides, pull weeds by hand when possible
- Compost leaves, clippings, and garden waste. Its easy and inexpensive!!

