

About Stormwater Management & Water Quality Control

The objective of the Town of Leesburg's Water Quality Program is to keep our water supplies safe and clean for public consumption, as well as for recreational uses. By working with citizens and organizations, the Engineering and Public Works Department strives to improve the quality of water for the citizens and preserve our natural environment.

The Town of Leesburg takes a proactive approach to ensuring the availability of safe, clean drinking water and protecting our natural resources and environment.

Participation by the community is critical in maintaining a safe and sufficient water supply. This brochure seeks to educate the public on ways individuals and groups can contribute to this effort.

For information on the program, community outreach and educational opportunities, please contact Nathaniel Ogedegbe, Stormwater Manager, at 703-737-3269 or e-mail nogedegbe@leesburgva.gov.

You may also visit

www.leesburgva.gov/services/publicworks/waterquality/ for more information.



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Doing Your Part to Reduce Stormwater Pollution in Our Waterways



A citizen's guide to reducing non-point source pollution in our community.

**Town of Leesburg
Stormwater Management
& Water Quality Program**

What is Stormwater Runoff?



Stormwater runoff occurs when rain or melted snow flows over the ground and is not readily absorbed.

Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, the water is channeled into our storm drain system; from there, it is carried directly to streams, ponds, lakes and rivers.

Why is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

So, stormwater runoff is carried through the storm drain system—it gets treated before it's released into our water resources, *right*?

WRONG! Sanitary sewer systems carry household water to large facilities where it is treated. Water that flows into storm drains and sewers flows **UNTREATED**, directly to streams, ponds, lakes and rivers. This runoff carries with it pollutants that damage our natural environment and can be harmful to humans, plants and animals.



Stormwater flows untreated into waterways!

What Are the Effects of Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, animals, fish and people.

- Sediment (soil particles) can cloud water and make it difficult or impossible for plants and fish to survive.
- Debris and trash can entangle animals, birds and fish causing serious injury or death!
- Excessive nutrients from fertilizer and animal waste can cause algae blooms. When the algae die, they decompose in a process that removes oxygen essential to the survival of fish and plants.
- Waste such as oil, grease and chemicals from lawns and auto care get washed into recreational swimming areas and can make humans and animals sick!
- Pet waste that is not picked up washes bacteria (even parasites such as various types of **worms**!) into our recreational and drinking water and can cause serious illnesses in humans & animals!

What Are Some of the Typical Pollutants That End up in Storm Drains?

- Antifreeze, motor oil and gasoline
- Paint, stains and solvents
- Fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides & herbicides
- Pet waste
- Trash and debris
- Dirt, leaves and grass
- Soil and sediment from bare land
- Household chemicals, such as every-day cleaning supplies

Why is this My Problem?

Keeping pollution out of storm drains not only helps the environment, but saves **YOU** money. Cleanup efforts are big strains on tax dollars. Minimizing pollution means minimizing cleanup costs and saving your tax dollars for other programs in the community.

What Can I Do?

By making a few small changes, **YOU** can help reduce stormwater pollution!

- Don't hose down sidewalks and driveways—sweep up with a broom instead.
- Pick up after your pet—bag waste and put it in the trash or flush it down the toilet.
- Use fertilizer only as needed—avoid fertilizing right before a rainy day.
- If you work on your car, clean up spills immediately with rags and dispose of contaminated materials properly.
- Don't rinse paint brushes outside where leftover paint can flow into drains.
- Use car washes that recycle used water.
- Repair auto fluid leaks immediately!
- Report illegal dumping—only rain belongs in the drain! Dumping of paint, motor oil, yard waste and other items in storm drains harms our water resources and is **illegal**! If you witness dumping in storm drains, please contact the **Town of Leesburg Police Department at 703-771-4500** or the **Department of Engineering and Public Works at 703-771-2790**.



Look for “Betty Bass” storm drain markers in your neighborhood to remind you **ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN!**