

# Automotive Services and Preventing Stormwater Pollution



## What is Stormwater Pollution?

Stormwater pollution can come from a variety of sources. The general definition is water that washes pollutants into the storm sewer system. This water can come from rain, snow melt or man-made activities. When water washes over ground surfaces it picks up debris, sediment, excess nutrients and other contaminants then carries this polluted water into storm drain inlets. From there, the contaminated water is discharged back into the environment, untreated.

## What Goes in Here...



## Ends Up Here...



**Remember!**

**ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!!**

## How Can You Help?

As an automotive service provider, you can play an important role in helping to keep pollutants and contaminants out of the storm sewer system. Automotive repair and maintenance activities have the potential to cause negative impacts to the water resources in Leesburg. By taking a moment to examine your standard operating procedures and practices, you may find ways to make adjustments to lessen the harmful impacts downstream. Below are some best management practices to remember:

- Read manufacturer's labels and follow directions for safe use, storage and disposal of all chemicals and products used in the auto repair or maintenance process.
- Do not hose down pavement or sidewalks. The runoff from this activity can carry sediment, chemicals and other pollutants into the storm sewer system.
- Have a spill response plan and cleanup materials in place. Ensure that all employees are properly trained on the process and requirements for disposal of cleanup materials.
- Routinely check storage containers to ensure there are no leaks or damage. Do not dispose of any hazardous waste in regular trash. Hazardous materials must be disposed of as directed by law.

For more information on how you can help prevent stormwater pollution, please visit [www.leesburgva.gov](http://www.leesburgva.gov), e-mail [publicworks@leesburgva.gov](mailto:publicworks@leesburgva.gov) or phone 703-771-2790.