Landscaping Responsibly - 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 a landscape service provider, you can play an important role in helping to keep pollutants and contaminants out of the storm sewer system. Landscaping activities have the potential to cause negative impacts to the water resources in Leesburg. By taking a moment to examine 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 for application recommendations to be sure you don't exceed the necessary amount when applying chemicals or fertilizers to lawns and gardens
- Do not hose down driveways or sidewalks. The runoff from this activity can carry sediment, chemicals and other pollutants into the storm sewer system
- Avoid spraying chemicals on windy days or when rain/storms are forecast. Any overspray or runoff after a rain event can carry the chemicals into the storm sewer system.
- Curb and yard inlets carry everything directly through the storm sewer system and into ponds, streams and swales. NEVER direct anything into these openings! (i.e., blowing leaves or grass clippings, discarding trash or debris, sweeping excess chemicals or fertilizer, etc.)

For more information on how you can help prevent stormwater pollution, please visit www.leesburgva.gov, e-mail publicworks@leesburgva.gov or phone 703-771-2790.