

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the untreated runoff that flows from storm drains into local creeks and rivers. This runoff picks up pollutants from streets, roofs, and other surfaces and brings them straight to local wildlife- which can harm aquatic ecosystems.



There are many chemicals in a typical home that can cause stream pollution if they are discarded improperly. Rainfall that runs off your property goes **directly to a stream or pond!** There is no treatment process to remove stormwater pollutants, so homeowners must control pollution "at its source".

Homeowners can also look into implementing Green Infrastructure to reduce runoff in their yard.

Easy-to-implement examples include rainwater harvesting and planting vegetated swales in low spots!



For more resources, visit StormwaterOK.net



Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Oklahoma's Water Resources



How do homes pollute?

Rooftops collect **leaves, bird droppings, and dirt** which will be washed off with every rainfall.

Animal waste from urban pets, birds and wildlife all contribute large amounts of bacteria to streams with every rain event.

Homeowners also often over-**fertilize** lawns and misuse **pesticides**. It's important to consider the consequences of improper chemical use and to follow directions carefully.



Pouring used **motor oil, paints and solvents** into storm drain inlets in streets violates federal and state laws. Homes contain many of the same chemicals that are used in industries.

Chemicals in a storm drain do **not** go to any treatment plant, they flow directly to creeks and ponds in your neighborhood, **often where children play!**

What YOU can do as a Homeowner:

Vehicle Maintenance

- Recycle used motor oil, antifreeze and car batteries.
- Do not pour chemicals or yard waste into streets or storm drains.
- Clean up spills immediately, and properly dispose of materials.

Pet Waste

- While walking your dog, pick up droppings with disposable baggies.
- Flush pet waste down the toilet or bury it at least 6 inches deep.
- Use a lawn and pet waste composter for animal waste.

De-icing

- Don't apply salt or chemicals in deep snow; deicers are ineffective!
- Sweep up any unused material; use the least amount necessary.
- Reduce salt and other chemicals by adding sand for traction.

Lawn and Garden Care

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly; follow application directions.
- Sweep overcast fertilizer and pesticide pellets back onto lawn.
- Never sweep leaves or grass into the street or storm drains. Instead, mulch grass clippings. Mulching lessens disposal, and recycles nutrients.

Washing your Car

- Use phosphate-free, non-petroleum, biodegradable soaps.
- Empty soap buckets on the lawn or in a sink, not into a driveway or the street.
- Use a commercial car wash to clean the engine and under the car.