

What pollutes local waterways?

Water quality FAQs for
Oklahoma homeowners



FAQs

Doesn't the city treat the water in storm drains before releasing it?

No. This is a common belief, but cities do not treat the water that goes down your storm drain. Storm drains flow into the nearest creek, stream, or river. Dumping chemicals, oils, and bacteria into a storm drain releases pollutants directly to the environment.

What causes a fish kill?

Fish kills might be caused by excess dirt in the water that clogs their gills and can result in suffocation. Excess nutrients from dog poop and fertilizer, chemicals, and organic material (like leaves and grass) can lower oxygen levels which stresses and can kill fish.

How does washing my car at home harm my local streams?

When washing your car at home, the soap, dirt, and grease run off into the street and storm drains. Like mentioned, these drains do not get treated before they are released and may harm water quality and animals in the stream.

Who do I contact if something is wrong in my local stream?

If your city has a stormwater department, you may contact them first. Tulsa's number to contact is simply **311**.

You can also contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality:

1-800-522-0206

For more resources, visit

StormwaterOK.net