

Stormwater Flows: How to Keep Our Waterways Clean

Yard Waste:

Did you know that one bushel of grass clippings can produce over 30 pounds of algae? Leaves and grass clippings from our yards contain high amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous. When they are blown into driveways, streets, and stormdrains, they are washed into the nearest water body

when it rains. The nutrients found in our yard

waste then contribute to excess growth of algae and aquatic weeds, which can block necessary sunlight from penetrating the water. When this excess growth dies, oxygen is consumed from surrounding waters as it decomposes. This can potentially kill fish and other wildlife and disrupt ecosystems. Additionally, grass clippings, which are largely made up of water and



decompose quickly, act as fertilizer if left on our lawns. The nutrients left behind mean we don't need to fertilize as often, cutting back on your costs and most importantly, water pollution.

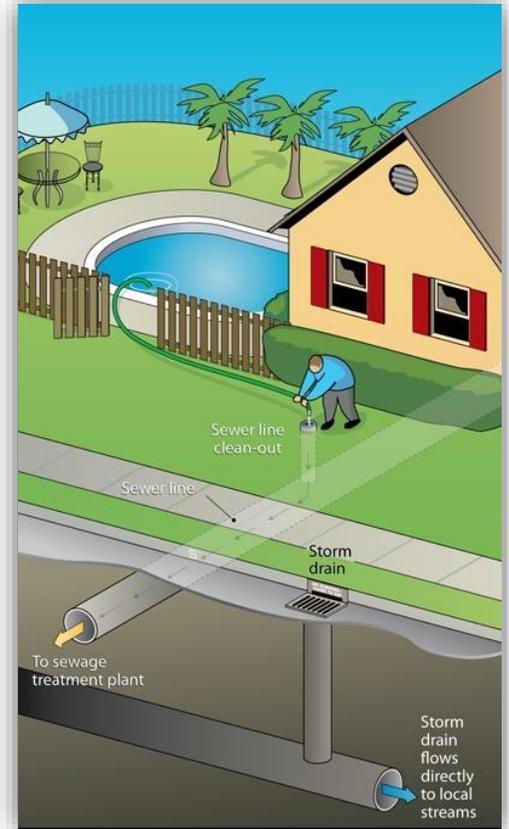
Remember, **only rain down the stormdrain!**



For more information, please visit CityofIrving.org/Stormwater.

Draining Your Pool:

Pool water can contain several different kinds of chemicals that can be detrimental to local water bodies. Do not drain your pool water into the street, alleyway, or stormdrain! Not only is this damaging for water conditions and wildlife, but it could result in a citation as it is a violation of local codes. Your pool may have a dedicated sewer connection or integrated system. In this case, consult your owner's manual or contact the contractor/installer for drainage instructions. If you do not have an integrated system, find the sewer clean-out port around your home to access the sanitary sewer line. Run a drainage hose from the port to the pool and use a submersible pump to drain the water. This way, the pool water you are discharging will be treated and recycled instead of flowing directly, untreated, into stormdrains and eventually, streams and lakes. Remember, **only rain down the stormdrain!**



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Washing Your Vehicle:

Hands down, the best thing you can do is take your vehicle to the local car wash. There, the drains empty into sanitary sewer lines where the water will go to a treatment facility.

Washing your car at home in the driveway means all of that soap, grease, oil, fuel, and dirt is running directly into the stormdrain, and then into local water bodies. If you absolutely must wash your vehicle at home, use a nozzle with flow restriction and/or a shutoff valve to minimize water volume and runoff. Wash your vehicle on an absorbent medium such as gravel or grass, or if on a paved surface, make sure the water is flowing into a vegetated area so that the water can be somewhat filtered before reaching the groundwater. Empty soap buckets and any other cleaners into the sink or tub where the water will flow to a treatment facility. Remember, **only rain down the stormdrain!**



Do this...



To avoid this!



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“Doo” the Right Thing!

Pet waste doesn't just decompose. It adds harmful bacteria and nutrients to local waters when it is not disposed of properly.

When left on a paved surface, dog waste becomes yet another contaminant that stormwater can transport to local waterways. When heavy rains wash down

sidewalks, streets, and over other surfaces, particles of that waste and other contaminants are picked up and washed into local streams, creeks and lakes either directly or through stormdrains. Fortunately, it's easy to prevent pet waste contamination. Simply carry a plastic bag or doggy bag dispenser with you on every walk with your dog and you'll be properly equipped to remove your dog's waste. Throw it in the nearest trash receptacle and you're done. Remember, **only rain down the stormdrain!**



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