

Stormwater Pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff is the number one cause of water pollution in North Carolina. In most cases in North Carolina today, stormwater either does not receive any treatment before it enters our waterways or is inadequately treated. Polluted



runoff generally happens anywhere people use or alter the land.

For example, in developed areas none of the water that falls on hard surfaces like roofs, driveways, parking lots or roads can seep into the ground. These impervious surfaces create large amounts of runoff that picks up pollutants. The runoff flows from gutters and storm drains to streams. Runoff not only pollutes but erodes streambanks. The mix of pollution and eroded dirt muddies the water and causes problems downstream.



Stormwater Management Program

Efforts to reduce stormwater pollution in Swepsonville are underway as a result of federal mandates under the Clean Water Act. In October of 2005, we received a Stormwater Permit that requires that we implement the Town's Stormwater Management Program that includes the following measures:

- Teach citizens and business owners about how they can prevent and reduce stormwater pollution.
- Involve citizens in developing and implementing our local stormwater program.
- Look for and remove unlawful discharges to the stormwater sewer system.
- Regulate new development activities to ensure that they provide appropriate treatment for stormwater before it reaches local waterways.
- Reduce and eliminate pollution resulting from our activities.

To learn about stormwater pollution, the Town's stormwater permit or management plan, and ways you can help reduce stormwater pollution, visit the Town's new website at:

www.swepsonvilletownof.net

Simple Ways Can You Help

Responsible Lawn and Yard Care

- Use fertilizer and pesticides sparingly.
- Keep fertilizer off of paved surfaces.
- Don't fertilize before a rainstorm
- Sweep up yard waste and grass clippings instead of hosing into the street or drainage system.

Automotive Care and Maintenance

- If changing your own oil, be careful to avoid spills and collect waste oil for recycling.
- Never dump used oil, anti-freeze, or gasoline into a storm drain.
- Use absorbent material such as rags and kitty litter to clean up spills and leaks.
- Wash your car on your lawn, or use a commercial car wash.

Household Products

- Store household chemicals and cleaners in waterproof containers in a location protected from stormwater.
- Buy only as much of a product as you need for a particular task.
- Use environmentally friendly alternatives if possible.
- Dispose of extra or used chemicals properly.

Clean up After Your Pet

- Scoop your pet's poop, bag it, and place it in the trash.