

What is

Stormwater and How it Affects You.

Stormwater is water that falls onto the ground from precipitation events. The water that does not soak into the ground is called stormwater runoff. As stormwater runs off lawns, roofs, driveways, parking lots, and roads, it can flow into our wetlands, streams, lakes and carry pollutants it picks up along the way. The pollutants include oil, grease, gasoline, lead & cadmium from the roads; pesticides, herbicides and animal waste from residential areas & farmlands; and dirt from construction sites, to name a few. Added to this list are items improperly disposed of into storm drains or on the ground.



To lessen pollution, we all need to do our part and change our habits. Your efforts to be a responsible pet owner along with your neighbors can make a difference!

You and your pet can be good water stewards...

Pick up after your pet!



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Pet Waste

Fact Sheet

**Get the scoop!
Clean up the poop.**

The Problem with Pet Waste...

Pet waste is a health risk to pets and people. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in our rivers, lakes, and streams, the bacteria ends up in our fish and aquatic life. Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water with no treatment. In addition to transferring harmful pathogens to our water, pet waste also leads to increased biological oxygen demand, thus reducing the oxygen content of the water and making it difficult for aquatic life to survive.



Proper Disposal of Dog Waste.



What Can You Do?

- **Bring It!** Carry a scooper bag when you walk your dog.
- **Scoop It!** Use the baggie like a glove, scoop the poop, invert and seal the bag.
- **Toss It!** It belongs in the trash.
- **Place a Sign!** Put a "Scoop the Poop" sign in your yard to encourage your neighbors to scoop it up too!
- **DO NOT!** Leave pet waste near a curb. It's improper management, and it can get washed into local waterways through the storm drain.

Don't Pollute
Lakes and
Streams

A blue sign with white text and a white scalloped border, mounted on a black post. In the background, there is a large brown dog and a smaller brown dog.

There are an estimated 78 million owned dogs in the United States. That's 21 billion pounds of poop per year! When it rains, the potential exists for thousands of pounds of waste to wash down our storm drains and into our creeks and lakes - untreated! That means harmful bacteria associated with pet waste is going into our water.