

# Storm water Runoff

## It Affects All of Us

As the snow melts or the spring rains come, storm water flows across driveways, parking lots and lawns, and from there, in one way or another it flows into our precious water bodies. Whether you live in an urban or rural area, your storm water either flows into ground water reservoirs, or directly into local creeks or rivers. We can all do our part to minimize pollution by following some simple habits.

### Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

- Think about your household chemicals and minimize their use
- Avoid flushing excess amounts of chemicals
- Use environmentally friendly, non-toxic, biodegradable and recyclable cleaners, solvents, and other products whenever possible
- Never throw pesticides, fertilizers, household chemicals or batteries into the garbage. Take them to Allied Waste's facility and declare them as "Household Hazardous Waste" and they will dispose of the chemicals in the proper manner.
- Recycle used motor oil
- Avoid the excessive use of fertilizers or pesticides
- Do not use fertilizers or pesticides when the forecast calls for rain
- Avoid over-watering as that can transport pesticides, fertilizers and pet wastes off your property
- When ever possible wash your vehicle in a commercial car wash. If you do wash your car at home, minimize the amount of chemicals you use, and wash your car on the lawn or other unpaved area to minimize the runoff
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvent, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible and follow the directions on the label
- Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely
- Store hazardous materials so that leaks will be contained
- Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method
- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary (usually every 3 - 5 years)

**Remember, we can all help to protect our drinking and surface waters.**