

MORE SOLUTIONS

LITTER is ugly and clogs storm drains. Animals get entangled in it or mistake it for food.

- Put it in the trash!
- Reduce, reuse, recycle and refuse!

FERTILIZERS contain nutrients that cause algae to grow in water, which uses up oxygen and kills fish and aquatic life. Nutrients cause “dead zones” in waterbodies.

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to conserve soil moisture and act as a natural fertilizer.
- Save money! Learn the exact nutrients your lawn needs by getting a free soil test from NHC Cooperative Extension; 798-7679.
- Keep fertilizer off pavement; don't fertilize before rain.

PESTICIDES are toxic chemicals that kill bugs, weeds or fungus. However, pesticides are very harmful to humans, animals and beneficial insects.

- Install native plants; they are adapted to the area and naturally resist pests and diseases.
- Use natural methods to control pests or weeds (i.e. weed by hand, add mulch, use ladybugs, plant marigolds, etc.).
- Use pesticides as a last resort; never before it rains.

YARD WASTE clogs storm drains, causes flooding and pollutes our waterways with too many nutrients.

- Don't blow or leave yard waste in a street, storm drain, ditch or waterway.
- Compost yard waste; use in the landscape and garden.
- Stack yard debris in grass at property line and contact Public Works to collect it; 458-5816.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

such as paint, cleaners and electronics have toxins and heavy metals that shouldn't end up in our waterways. Contact the county, 798-4403, for disposal locations or visit earth911.com for more information.



POLLUTION

is a *DIRTY* word!

What goes in here...

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows over land and ultimately into waterways. Hard surfaces like driveways, roofs, streets and parking lots prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



...ends up here!

Pollution like pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, grass clippings, litter and motor oil are carried by stormwater runoff into local waterways—**UNTREATED!**

Polluted stormwater runoff is the biggest source of water pollution.

YOU are the solution to stormwater pollution!

CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE LITTER, TOO!!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.townofkurebeach.org/storm-water.aspx>

Provided by the KB Stormwater & Environmental Committee with special thanks to the City of Wilmington Stormwater Department

STORMWATER GUIDE



Did you know that stormwater runoff flows directly into where we fish, where we swim, and what we drink? Stormwater runoff does NOT get treated to remove pollutants.

THINGS YOU CAN DO ON YOUR PROPERTY

The following best management practices (BMPs) can be used on your property to clean and slow down polluted runoff and allow it to soak into the ground, as nature intended.



NATIVE PLANTS are adapted to the region's weather and soil conditions. Native plants provide nectar, pollen, berries and seeds for birds and wildlife. These plants help filter runoff, prevent erosion, reduce flooding, provide habitat and beautify your yard. Native plants eliminate the need for toxic pesticides, fertilizers and excess watering.

HABITAT GARDENS have plants that attract birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and wildlife. Habitat gardens should have sunlight, shelter, food sources and water. Habitat gardens are especially important for wildlife in urban areas where natural resources tend to be more limited. Plants in a habitat garden soak up polluted stormwater.

TREES soak up and clean polluted runoff, improve air quality, provide food for wildlife, prevent erosion, increase property values and help cool the climate. They save money by reducing heating and cooling costs in homes and buildings. Trees are also important for shading pavement to help cool runoff before it flows into waterways.



RAIN GARDENS are shallow depressions designed to capture runoff and allow it to soak into the ground. Rain gardens are placed between sources of runoff (i.e. roofs, driveways) and runoff destinations (i.e. storm drain, street, creek). They are planted with native trees, shrubs and perennials which clean runoff, provide habitat, and beautify your yard.



BACKYARD WETLANDS should be located in a naturally occurring wet area on your property. Wetlands temporarily store, filter and clean polluted runoff, replenish groundwater, provide wildlife habitat and help prevent flooding. They should have plants that thrive in wet conditions and attract insects and wildlife that prey on mosquitoes and other pesky insects.

BUFFERS are areas of native trees, shrubs and grasses located next to a waterway. Buffers stabilize shorelines, prevent erosion, provide travel corridors and habitat for wildlife, and act as filters to clean polluted runoff before it reaches a waterway. They can also provide privacy and increased property values for homeowners.

RE-ROUTE YOUR DOWNSPOUT—Downspouts on homes and buildings often drain rain water directly onto pavement. This allows polluted runoff to flow straight to our waterways. There is a solution! You can help our creeks out if you re-route your downspout and let water soak into the ground, instead of running off. Here's what to do: Redirect downspouts away from pavement to landscaped areas like lawns, flower beds and rain gardens. If a downspout can't be turned, attach a flexible gutter extension or a splash block underneath which can re-route rainwater to a landscaped area. Redirect downspouts into rain barrels and collect free rainwater for your landscape, garden and houseplants.



RAIN BARRELS & CISTERNS are designed to capture and store rainwater from your roof to irrigate your yard, garden and house plants. Several rain barrels can be connected together to store additional water. A tight lid and screen will prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Cisterns store larger amounts of water and can be buried underground.

PERVIOUS SURFACES, also called porous or permeable surfaces, allow runoff to soak into the ground instead of running into waterways. Pervious surfaces reduce runoff, recharge groundwater and lessen flooding. They can be used for driveways, walkways and low-flow parking areas.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

STORMWATER POLLUTION is caused by human activities that occur on land and wash into our waterways when it rains. Polluted runoff harms fish, plants, wildlife and humans. Fortunately, we can adopt simple solutions that will protect our waterways, our health, and our environment.

PET WASTE contains bacteria that can make humans sick, and nutrients that cause algae blooms. This leads authorities to close waterways to swimming, fishing and shellfishing.

- Always clean up after your pet on any public property. Have the means to do so at all times, and dispose of pet waste in a closed trash can. It's the LAW! *\$150 Fine*
- Don't forget to clean up pet waste in your own yard to prevent bacteria and nutrients from harming waterways and public health.
- Use a covered litterbox for outdoor cats.
- Don't flush pet waste down the toilet (CFPUA Ordinance).

VEHICLE & PRESSURE WASHING SOAPS destroy the natural oils on fish that protect them from harmful bacteria and help them move through water. Soaps and chemicals cause harmful algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive.

- Wash your car on the grass. The soapy, dirty water will be cleaned naturally by the soil. It won't harm the grass!
- Use a commercial car wash; dirty water goes to a wastewater treatment plant or is recycled on-site.
- If you wash vehicles or boats or pressure wash on pavement, use plain water.

SEDIMENT, also known as "dirt," creates muddy water, buries fish eggs and harms aquatic life.

- Re-seed or add mulch to bare soil or landscape beds.
- Install plants to hold soil and prevent erosion.
- Collect sediment off of paved surfaces; don't hose off.