

ARE YOU CONTRIBUTING TO NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

WHAT IS NON-POINT SOURCE (NPS) POLLUTION?

Nonpoint source pollution (also called polluted runoff) comes from many sources and occurs when rainfall, snowmelt and water moves over and through the ground. As it moves, this runoff picks up pollutants like dirt, oil, and fertilizers and carries them to lakes, rivers, streams and even our underground sources of drinking water.

SUGGESTIONS TO REDUCE NPS POLLUTION

- Keep litter, pet waste, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains as these outlets drain to lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and always follow directions.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local lakes, rivers and streams.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover, shrubs, and trees in erosion-prone areas.
- Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphates to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams, and rivers.
- Reduce the size of your lawn and replace with drought-tolerant plants.
- For a healthy lawn, overseed bare spots, reduce thatch, and aerate to reduce the need for lawn chemicals.
- Use compost or slow-release fertilizer, and water deeply and infrequently (1-1½ inches per week).
- When grass is actively growing, mow weekly to maximize turf density and prevent excess evaporation. Recommended mowing heights in summer are generally from 2.5"-3.0" for rye, fescue, and bluegrass mixes.



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