



## Stormwater, the Nonpoint Source Polluter

Source: <http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/planning/environmental/stormwater.html>

Stormwater is drainage runoff that flows over the surface of the land resulting from rain events or snowmelt. The water enters a drain known as a storm sewer where it is either taken to a detention basin and is held before it is slowly released into the ground or nearby stream or it is discharged directly into a stream. Stormwater occurs when water from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Hard surfaces like roads and streets not only prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground, but it also picks up trash, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Untreated, it flows into a storm sewer system that leads directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland.

Stormwater can become a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows overland. Stormwater can also add large volumes of water to local creeks and streams causing erosion of stream banks and flash flooding.

### Things to Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

1. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly to prevent polluted runoff.
2. Sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
3. Never dump anything down storm drains. Dispose of hazardous wastes properly.  
([www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/Recycling\\_HouseholdHazardousWasteFAQs?OpenDocument](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/Recycling_HouseholdHazardousWasteFAQs?OpenDocument))
4. Compost your yard waste – it makes a great garden additive!
5. Report any discharges from stormwater outfalls during times of dry weather, a sign there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces. Install innovative stormwater practices on residential property such as rain barrels or rain gardens that capture stormwater instead of washing off into a nearby storm sewer system.
7. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
9. Pick up after your pet.

For additional information click on the links below:

**Mississippi Department of Transportation**

<http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Stormwater-Management-Plan.aspx>

**Va. Trekkers: Frank's Watershed** <http://www.virginiatrekkers.com/Watershed/Watershed.html>

Excellent Resource!! In this podcast, Frank takes us on a journey through the watershed.

**Litter in Waterways** [http://www.rcsd.ms/~cwilkins/documents/Litterinwaterways\\_000.pdf](http://www.rcsd.ms/~cwilkins/documents/Litterinwaterways_000.pdf)

**Pear River Watershed WebQuest**- For grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade (EXCELLENT)

<http://www.rcsd.ms/~cwilkins/PearRiverWatershedWebQuest.htm>

[Clean Water Education Partnership \(CWEP\) for Kids](#)