

STORMWATER INFORMATION

www.CityofCallaway.com

Open to the Public: 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Stormwater Pollution is everyone's problem. The EPA works with the City of Callaway, state and tribal governments to reduce runoff and improve water quality by supporting stormwater management practices. Stormwater is rainwater that runs off streets, lawns and other sites. When stormwater is absorbed into soil, it is filtered and ultimately replenishes aquifers or flows into streams and rivers.

Climate changes, including more frequent and intense storms and more extreme flooding events, can increase stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is generated from many different land surfaces and is impacted by the behaviors and activities of individuals, households, and the public. These common individual behaviors have the potential to generate stormwater pollution including: littering, disposing of trash and recyclables, disposing of pet-waste, applying lawn-chemicals, washing cars, changing motor-oil, and disposing leftover paint and household chemicals.

Convincing others to change their behaviors and properly dispose of materials can control such pollution. It is important that the homeowners be aware of the significance of their behavior and that their actions can either pollute or protect our waterways.

VEHICLE & GARAGE AREAS

Use a commercial car wash; commercial car washes are required to properly dispose of wastewater and many filter and recycle their water.

If washing your car at home consider the following actions:

- Wash your car on a pervious surface such as grass or gravel (not concrete or asphalt) so water is filtered before reaching a water body.
- Use nontoxic, phosphate-free soaps.
- Use soap sparingly.
- Minimize runoff by reducing water use, using a spray nozzle to restrict water flow.
- Wring out sponges and rags over the bucket or in a sink, not the ground.
- Empty wash water into the sink or toilet, or the grass if you wish to dispose of it outside.
- Use waterless car wash products for spot-cleaning or a car wash kit, which redirects water from storm drains. Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.

PET CARE

Failing to pick up after your pet is a health concern for humans and other animals, and can lead to water quality problems. Pet waste contributes nutrients, parasites and bacteria to water bodies when it is not disposed of properly. This can lead to water body conditions that are unsafe for human recreation. Polluted water bodies can also sicken and kill pets and livestock that drink the water. When taking your pet for a walk, bring a bag with you to collect and dispose of pet waste in a trash can. Waste left on sidewalks, streets and other paved areas is carried away by stormwater directly into streams. Avoid walking your pet near streams and other waterways. Instead, walk them in grassy areas, parks or undeveloped areas.

LAWN & GARDEN

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts.
- Avoid application if the forecast calls for moderate to heavy rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than washing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water runoff into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
- Core compacted soils before application to increase fertilizer uptake.
- Properly calibrate spreaders before applying fertilizers as settings can change over time due to wear and tear.
- Fill fertilizer spreaders on a hard surface so that any spills can be easily cleaned up.

- Properly store unused fertilizers and properly dispose of empty containers.

HOME REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents 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 substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Landscape with native plants to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

SWIMMING POOLS & SPAS

- Drain your swimming pool only when absolutely necessary.
- Direct swimming pool or spa water into the lowest area of your yard and allow ample time for percolation.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.

SEPTIC SYSTEM USE & MAINTENANCE

- Have your septic system inspected by a professional annually. Pump out your septic system regularly. (Pumping out every two to five years is recommended for a three bedroom house with a 1,000-gallon tank; smaller tanks should be pumped more often).
- Care for the septic system drain field by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drain field to avoid damage from roots.
- Do not use septic system additives. There is no scientific evidence that biological and chemical additives aid or accelerate decomposition in septic tanks; some additives can in fact be detrimental to the septic system or contaminate ground water.
- Don't use toilets as trash cans. Excess solids can clog your drain field and necessitate more frequent pumping.

POINTLESS PERSONAL POLLUTANTS

- Nutrients from fertilizers, septic tanks and animal wastes enter our waters causing excessive growth of algae and aquatic weeds.
- Heavy metals and pesticides can kill aquatic organisms and contaminate ground water.
- Sewage, garbage, and litter reduce oxygen in the water to levels that can kill aquatic life.
- Sediments from soil erosion can clog fish gills and shellfish filtering systems by cutting off their oxygen supply.
- Bacteria from septic tanks and animal wastes contaminate shellfish and lead to the closing of swimming areas.

QUESTIONS

Please direct all inquiries or to obtain an authorization form for excess bulk fees to the Callaway Public Works Department, 324 S. Berthe Ave. between the hours of 7:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Phone: 850-871-1033.

This important information is provided by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Callaway Public Works Department. For more information contact the EPA at www.epa.gov/owm or the Public Works Department at (850) 871-1033.



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Revised 12/2020