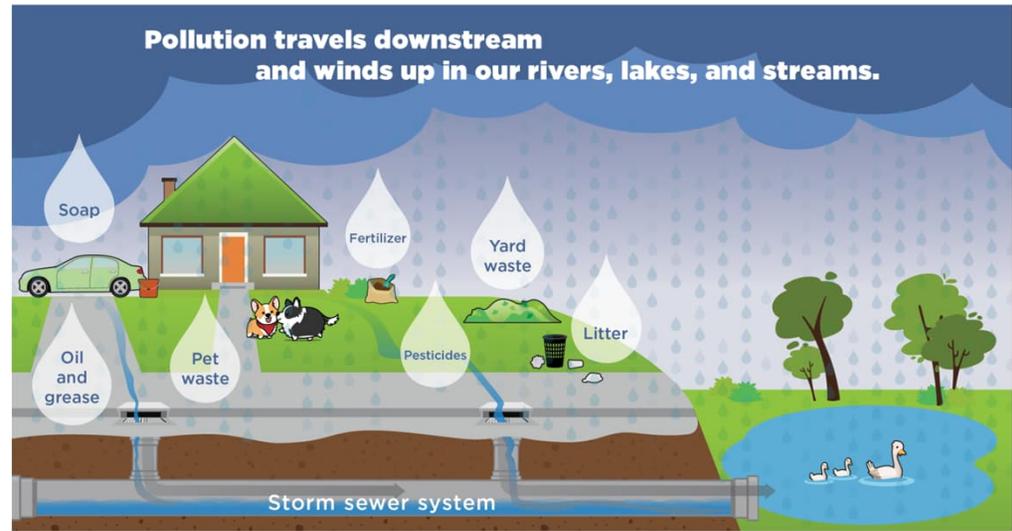




# BE STORMWATER SMART

## Take Steps to Protect Our Waterways

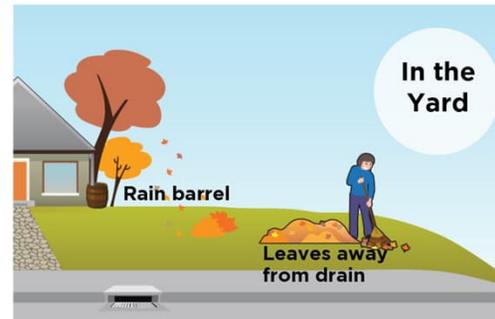
You can take steps to decrease the amount of pollution that flows from your home into local waterways every time it rains. Known as stormwater, once rain or snow hits the ground, it can carry dirt, chemicals, and other pollutants downstream from your home and yard to the rivers and lakes in your community. Here are just a few steps you can take to be stormwater smart at home.



- Apply fertilizers and pesticides carefully on your lawn or garden and not on pavement.
- Avoid using fertilizers and pesticides completely if rain is in the forecast.
- When watering your lawn, direct the spray toward your lawn and plants, not the pavement.
- Consider installing a rain garden, which is a depressed area that collects stormwater and is planted with native grasses or perennials.



- Wash your car with biodegradable soap to avoid chemicals floating downstream. Or visit a carwash.
- Direct water from downspouts and car washing to grassy areas, so it can soak into the ground rather than hitting the pavement.
- Don't hose down your driveway, which will flush dirt into a storm drain or ditch.
- Look for spots on the ground that indicate your car leaks oil or fluid. Fix the leaks. Soak up the fluids and trash them. Never wash them into the storm drain or ditch!



- Don't rake or blow leaves or yard clippings into the storm drain or ditch. This will avoid clogs and debris that could cause flooding.
- Use permeable pavers instead of hard stones or pavement in your yard to help water absorb into the ground.
- Install a rain barrel to help reduce rain flowing into the storm drains (and also save water for dry spells!)



- Pick up pet waste and keep trash and dirty water away from pavement and storm drains, where it can contaminate stormwater.
- During colder weather, avoid oversalting your sidewalks. Use an appropriate amount of deicer—a little goes a long way!
- Sweep sidewalks and put the debris in the trash, not the storm drain or ditch.

### DID YOU KNOW?

If you use a rain barrel to collect water for plants, you can keep your landscape green for free. Every time it rains, you'll collect water that can be used later! Check out [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more tips to save water!