



What is Stormwater Pollution?

Stormwater pollution is the biggest threat to surface water quality today. When it rains, pollutants are washed off of hard surfaces such as parking lots and buildings by stormwater runoff, which travels to the nearest storm drain and then to a stream or pond. The Stormwater system is designed to prevent localized flooding, not to filter pollutants. Therefore, anything left on the ground or discharged to a storm drain can turn into a pollutant with the next rain event.

How Can I Prevent Stormwater Pollution?

The best way to prevent Stormwater pollution is to understand how it occurs. Each of us only handles a small amount of potential pollutants—a bag of fertilizer or a few half-empty gallons of paint—hardly enough to threaten an entire stream. However, nonpoint source pollution, or NPS, is not about individual discharges. NPS is about diffuse sources of pollutants from all over a watershed combining in surface waters during rain events. A watershed is an area of land that all drains to the same body of water. Within each watershed, thousands of people could allow small amounts of pollution to reach the ground or part of the drainage system.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Report Illegal Dumping to a Storm Drain or Waterway

Gwinnett County Water Resources 678.376.7193
(24-hour hotline)

Learn About NPS Pollution

GwinnettStormwater.com

Request a Copy of a Homeowner's Guide to Septic System Maintenance

GwinnettStormwater.com

Maintain Your Septic System

Gwinnett Environmental Health
770.963.5132 or GNRHealth.com

Obtain Metrowide Water Quality Information

CleanWaterCampaign.com

Learn About Lawn Care, Composting, and Pesticide/Fertilizer Use

Gwinnett Extension Service 678.377.4010

Get Involved Protecting Our Water Resources

Gwinnett Adopt-A-Stream 770.822.5187
GwinnettCB.org/Programs

Become a Stormwater Protector by marking storm drains with the message,

"No Dumping – Only Rain in the Drain"

Gwinnett Adopt-A-Stream 770.822.5187

Dispose of Household Hazardous Wastes Appropriately (e.g, Waste Oil, Paint)

Find Disposal Locations at

GwinnettCB.org/Recycling

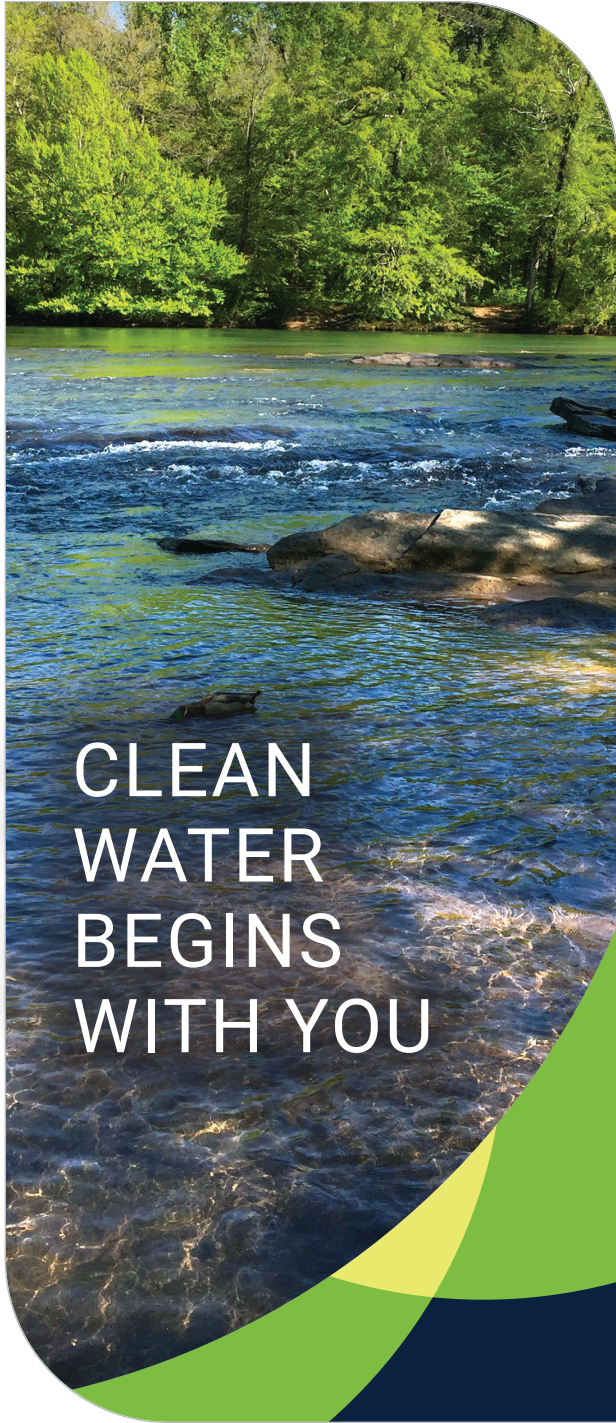
Gwinnett County Solid Waste Call Center

770.822.7141 SustainableGwinnett.com

GWINNETT COUNTY WATER RESOURCES

684 Winder Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
Telephone: 678.376.6700
Fax: 678.376.7082
GwinnettH2o.com

GWINNETT WATER RESOURCES



CLEAN WATER BEGINS WITH YOU



Case Study

During the warm months, folks tend to wash their cars more often. When soapy wash water flows into a storm drain, it can reach a nearby stream. When hundreds of people in the same watershed all wash their cars on the same weekend, a high volume of soapy water will make it to the stream, leading to a pollution problem. It isn't the one discharge that matters. It is the combined discharge throughout a watershed that affects water quality. This can be the case with any pollutant.

What goes in here...



Keep these common nonpoint source pollutants out of storm drains to protect our waterways!

Yard Waste

Compost yard waste (*leaves, grass clippings, etc.*) or use it as mulch. Don't blow them into the street, storm drain, or drainage ditch.

Fertilizers & Pesticides

These products are often overused. Follow label direction. Do not over spray onto paved areas. Follow local regulations for waste disposal.

Oil Leaks

Catch oil leaks from your car in a drip pan and repair them promptly.. Recycle waste oil. Don't pour waste oil onto the ground or into a storm drain.

Pet Waste

Don't throw animal waste into the street or storm drain. Bag it at home as well as on walks, and throw away in the trash. Remember, it's your doodle!

Makes its way here...



Septic System Failure

Maintain your septic system. Pump the tank every three to five years. Read the Homeowner's Guide to Septic System Maintenance here: GCGA.us/SepticMaintenanceGuide

Trash

Don't litter. Place all trash in bags and store in a trash can with a secure lid. Don't throw loose trash into the bed of your pickup. Cover your load.

Car Washing Soap

Wash cars at a commercial car wash or on a grassy area, not your driveway.