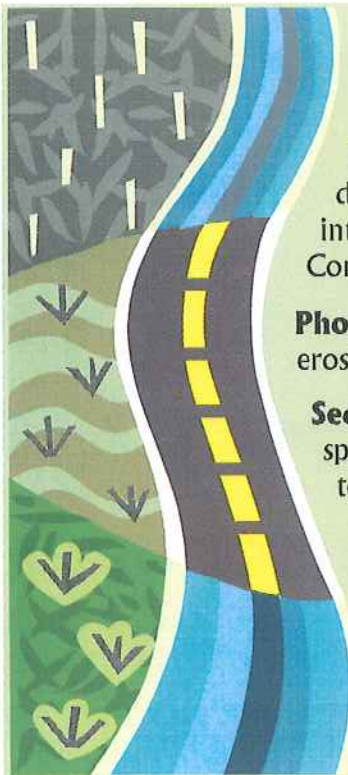


The **Big** Stormwater Picture

Your community is preventing stormwater pollution through a comprehensive stormwater management program. This program addresses stormwater pollution from construction, but it also deals with new development, illegal dumping to the stormwater system, and municipal operations. It will also continue to educate the community and get everyone involved in making sure the only thing that stormwater contributes to our streams is...water! Visit the website or City Hall for more information about stormwater management.

Clean Streets for Clean Water!



In urban areas, stormwater carries phosphorus and other pollutants directly into Minnesota's water resources through the storm drainage system. Unlike our household wastewater, stormwater doesn't go through a treatment facility, but directly into our lakes, rivers and wetlands. Common pollutants include:

Phosphorus: From tree leaves, grass clippings, soil erosion, fertilizer, pet and wildlife waste.

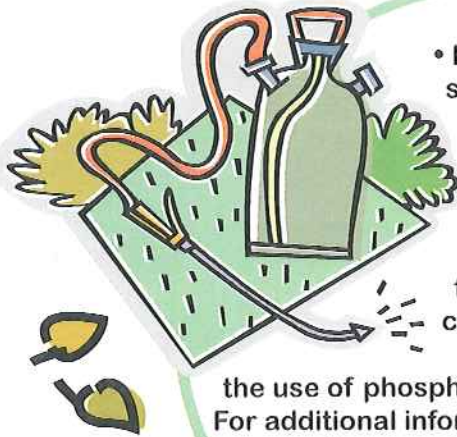
Sediment: From exposed soil on construction sites, sparse lawns, and unprotected garden beds set close to hard surfaces like streets, sidewalks and driveways.

Bacteria: From pet and wildlife waste, failing septic systems

Toxins: Oil, paint, cleaners, etc. spilled on streets, sidewalks and driveways or dumped down storm drains.

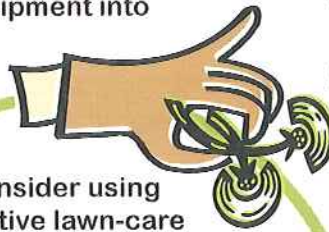
Information courtesy of Clean Water Minnesota

Fall Clean Water Tips



- Fall is the best season to fertilize your lawn and control common weeds. Use fertilizers and pesticides conservatively and always read and follow product instructions carefully. Minnesota passed a law in 2002 that restricts the use of phosphorus containing fertilizers. For additional information about the law and its exceptions, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture web site at www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/waterpollution/pholaw.htm.

- Check your car and lawn equipment for leaks. A good rainstorm can send gasoline and oil drips from automobiles, lawnmowers and power equipment into waterways.



- Consider using alternative lawn-care techniques in addition to, or even instead of, pesticides. Try these: pulling weeds by hand, or spot-treating weedy areas instead of your entire yard. More yard-care information is available under the garden section on the University of Minnesota Extension Services' Web site www.extension.umn.edu.

- Have a storm drain near your home? Do your part and keep it free from litter and leaves.

- Don't rake into the lake! Feeding a lake or river too many leaves or other yard waste creates a bumper crop of algae turning lakes into pools of pea-green sludge with too little oxygen for fish.

- Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Use the sweepings as mulch and compost yard waste. Don't forget to sweep along the curb. Remove leaves from your gutters, ditches and driveways, sidewalks and street.



Q. What's the greenest way to maintain an asphalt driveway?

Is there a sealcoat that does less environmental damage than others?



A. Over time asphalt sealcoats degrade and contribute pollutant related runoff into wetlands or other surface waters.

To reduce these pollutant contributions, some choose not to seal their driveways. Civil engineers and black-topping contractors say sealcoating is completely optional and doesn't affect durability. Sealants provide a deep black appearance, but the durability protection they provide is temporary. The sealcoat industry suggests reapplication every two to three years, depending on wear.

If you do decide to sealcoat your driveway, the product you use can make a difference. Choose one with an asphalt rather than coal tar base. Tests of parking lots by the U.S. Geological Survey found that a small amount of pollutants came off the unsealed parking lots. Lots with asphalt-based sealers had 10 times that amount and 65 times more pollutants came from the lots sealed with coal tar. The following list of products* contain no coal tar according to the product labels:

- Henry PM Premium Driveway Sealer/Filler (retail)
- Henry Elastometric Emulsion Crack Filler (retail)
- Pavesheid (wholesale or commercial)
- Jennite Asphalt Emulsion Pavement Sealer (wholesale or commercial)
- Gilsonite Asphalt Sealer (wholesale or commercial)

Never pour unused sealant down a stormdrain. Try to use up what you have (if product is usable) or donate it to a neighbor, paving contractor or other who may use it. Dried driveway sealer, either latex or oil-based, can be thrown in the trash with the lid off.

** Listings of a specific product trade name does not constitute an endorsement of its use. Many other sealant products are available and may be suitable for use other than those listed here.*

Information courtesy of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the City of Austin, Texas.

New Storm Water Regulations for Construction Sites

What you should know...

The new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Phase II requirements took effect in 2008. These requirements apply to all construction sites in Minnesota which disturb one acre or more of soil.

Minnesota uses a general NPDES permit for construction sites. Each construction site authorized under this general permit requires a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) prior to applying for the permit.



The SWPPP must address the manner in which erosion and sediment at the site will be controlled and contained. This includes the type and placement of on-site Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control erosion and sediment.

For more information on obtaining a storm water permit, please visit www.pca.state.mn.us/stormwater.