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# 12 Easy Ways You Can **STOP** Storm Drain Pollution

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## 1. Use less fertilizer

Many lawns need as little as one-half of the fertilizer recommended on fertilizer bags. And too much makes your lawn more susceptible to diseases and pests.



## 2. Use less pesticide, less often

All pesticides, even “natural” ones, are poisons. Some that seem safe around your home are lethal in the environment. For example, rotenone is extremely toxic to fish. Use pesticides sparingly. Follow label directions exactly. Prepare and use only what is absolutely necessary.



## 3. Compost yard waste

Grass clippings, leaves and garden trimmings can block storm drains. They also use up oxygen in the water, leaving less for fish and other aquatic life. Compost your clippings, leaves, and weeds—it’s free fertilizer.

## 4. Don't litter

Garbage and trash in storm drains foul our waterways and can harm wildlife. Some litter breaks down so slowly that it can remain in a river for centuries.

## 5. Properly dispose of pet waste

It’s raw sewage! Dispose of it far from all water sources and storm drains.



## 6. Recycle oil and antifreeze

Take used motor oil and antifreeze to your local recycling center. Repair fluid leaks in cars, trucks, and other motorized equipment.

## 7. Take hazardous materials to proper collection sites



Contact your town hall to find out where to take leftover paint, pesticides, cleaners, drain openers, and other hazardous household materials.

## 8. Wash your car on the lawn with vegetable soaps

On the lawn, water soaks into the soil instead of running off your driveway. Vegetable-based soap helps your lawn by inhibiting many pests and diseases.

## 9. Limit sand and salt use

Don’t compromise your safe footing—just don’t overdo it. Salt can spoil drinking water supplies and sand can run into waterways and destroy fish habitat.

## 10. Catch the rain



Rain barrels on your gutter downspout, or rain gardens in low patches of lawn, keep usable water on your property instead of sending it down a storm drain.

## 11. Reduce your paving

Wherever possible, choose gravel, perforated bricks, or turf over solid pavement. Give rain and meltwater a chance to percolate.

## 12. Spread the word

Most storm drain pollution is caused by the actions of uninformed people. Share what you know!

