



# Where does water pollution come from?

Most water pollution is created from people doing everyday activities. As we drive our cars, take care of our homes and lawns, or work at our jobs, we may contribute to water pollution. Often without realizing it.

As storm water flows, it picks up bits of dirt, auto fluids, chemicals and grass clippings. Sometimes, people intentionally (and illegally) dump paint, used oil, leaves or other pollutants in storm drains.

This “non-point source” water pollution comes from yards, driveways, parking lots, rooftops, streets, even golf courses.

“Point source” pollution comes from a single source. Some examples include a factory or a sanitary sewage treatment facility discharging into a stream. Point source pollution could also come from a spill such as a tanker truck accident where fuel or other contaminants flow into the storm drain system.

Water that flows into the storm drains system is not treated or cleaned.

Storm water flows across lawns, streets and parking lots picking up contaminants. Because that runoff is never cleaned, the storm water can pollute our streams.



*Grass clippings can clog drainage pipes and can cause algae blooms and fish kills in our creeks.*



## **What you can do**

- Don't use storm drains as a trash can.
- Put trash and cigarette butts in the trash.
- Don't apply fertilizers or pesticides before a heavy rain.
- Pour kitty litter or sand into unused pan and discard in trash.
- Take used motor oil to local approved used oil recycling centers.

**Only rain should go down the storm drain.**