

TOWN OF PAXTON STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION GUIDE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that contaminants in stormwater runoff cause over half of the pollution in our nation's waterways.

Stormwater pollution begins when rain or snowmelt washes over pavement and other impervious surfaces, picks up contaminants, and flows into the storm drain systems that lead to waterways that we use for both recreation and drinking water.

Common pollutants that are detected include gasoline, antifreeze, motor oils, fertilizers, pesticides, paints, household chemicals, solvents, road salt, pet waste, and even the breakdown of yard waste.

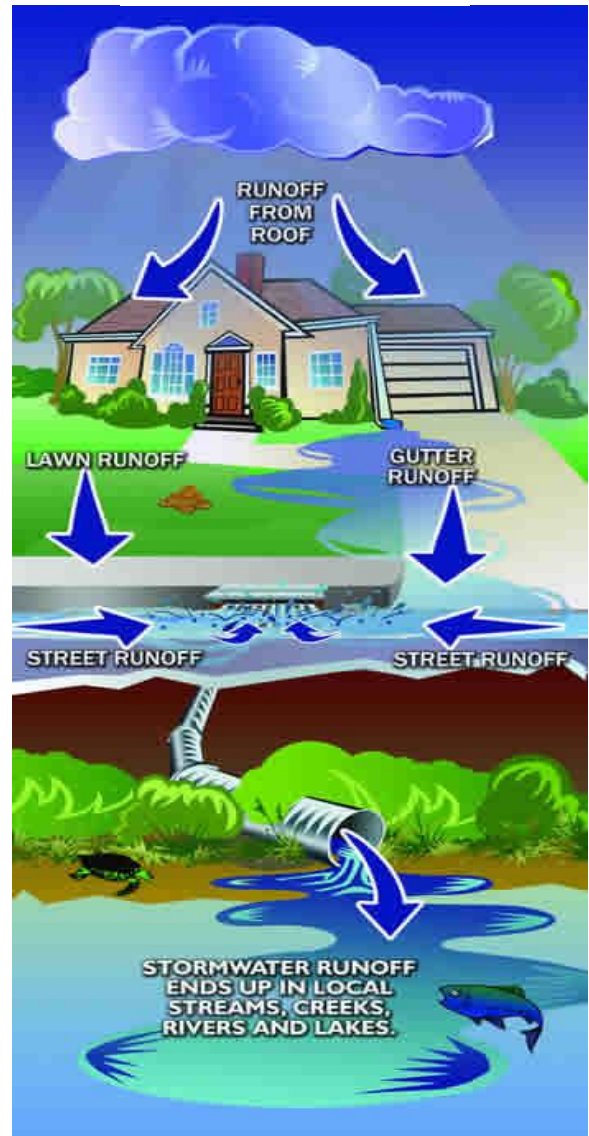
HELP KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN, OUR ENVIRONMENT HEALTHY, AND OUR DRINKING WATER SAFE FOR ALL THOSE WHO COME AFTER US! IT'S TIME FOR US ALL TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PAXTON!

On the back of this page you will find tips on how you, the residents or business owners here in Paxton, can help prevent stormwater pollution.

Paxton

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IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!



HELP KEEP OUR STREETS, PARKS, AND WATERWAYS FREE AND CLEAN OF POLLUTANTS!

DO YOUR PART TO THINK BLUE!

LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN FOR ALL THOSE WHO COME AFTER US!

LEARN MORE AT <https://www.centralmastormwater.org>

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WASHING CARS AND BOATS

Park your vehicle in a spot where the soap will run onto the grass, rather than into the street and down the storm drain. If practical, park your vehicle on your lawn when washing it.

Use organic or mild soaps and detergents.

Never clean or pressure wash the undercarriage of your vehicle. This washes the oil, grease, and other pollutants off and can contaminate shallow groundwater.

Always use a hose nozzle with a trigger and shut the water off when you are not using it to conserve water.

Skip the home treatment and wash your vehicle at a professional car wash that recycles its water!

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

Store automotive parts, such as batteries, engines, transmissions, and parts that may have oily or greasy residue on them under cover, and off the ground to minimize rainwater contact. Rainwater can wash pollutants off these parts, and into the drainage system.

Collect all used oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids in containers with tight fitting lids and recycle at a local service station.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Dog waste carries high levels of harmful E. Coli bacteria and other pathogens and is a major contributor to local water pollution.

Pick up the poop! Always carry a bag when you walk your dog and dispose of the pet waste in a trash can.

LAWN AND GARDEN

Choose organic lawn chemicals whenever possible.

Use lawn chemicals sparingly and never use more than the directions call for.

Sweep up dry chemical spills and dispose in the trash.

Do not pile yard waste near streams, wetlands, or storm drains.

Start a compost pile.

Do not allow irrigation to spray onto pavement. Water that ends up on the pavement contributes to polluted runoff and is a waste of water.



Make sure that your landscaper/irrigation contractor follows rules for preventing stormwater runoff.

Redirect downspouts toward grassy areas, trees, and shrubs so that runoff from your roof can soak into the ground.

Use pervious materials in landscape designs. Bricks, pavers, and stones allow water to slowly filter into the ground.

Set a rain barrel under your downspout to capture water for another use.

Plant rain gardens to help filter and soak up water before it runs onto the street.

HOMES/BUSINESSES

Use the least toxic products available for cleaning, etc.

Avoid liquid chemical spills such as oil, gasoline, antifreeze, paint, etc. on paved areas.

If liquid chemical spills occur, clean with rags or absorbent material such as sand or kitty litter. Sweep up absorbents and dispose of in the trash.

Never use a hose to wash down the driveway or sidewalk. This washes pollutants into the storm drains and is a waste of water.

Dispose of household hazardous waste properly. Never dump it on the ground.

Never put wash water or chemicals down the storm drains.

Store chemicals in leak proof containers inside a building, shed, or under cover, and away from rainwater.

Avoid oversalting walkways and driveways in the winter and use non-toxic products whenever possible.

Sweep up all construction areas on a regular basis and dispose of debris in the trash.

SWIMMING POOLS AND HOT TUBS

Never discharge pool water directly into the storm drain.

Dechlorinate pool, hot tub, or spa water with neutralizing chemicals if water is to be discharged into the ground. If water cannot be dechlorinated, it must be collected by a pool maintenance company.

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