

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow. It flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows through the watershed, it collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This water drains directly into nearby ditches, ponds and eventually to the river, without receiving treatment at sewage plants.



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## Lawn Care Tips for Cleaner Water

*Only Rain  
Down The Storm Drain*



## What's the Problem?

Lawns, gardens, tree and landscaping features are visually pleasing and important for windbreaks, shade, oxygen generation, absorption of excess rain and many other beneficial uses. But some methods of maintenance result in adding pollution to storm water runoff.



## Facts about Lawn Care

Excessive and/or misplaced landscape irrigation not only wastes precious ground water but also carries sediment, debris and yard care chemicals (fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides) down the storm drain and eventually to the Arkansas River.

Leaves, grass clippings, tree debris and dirt that are blown or swept into the street don't seem like a problem but in fact they clog storm drains and negatively impact the river's ecosystem.



Certain species of

plants and grasses require less moisture to thrive.

Mulching conserves moisture and reduces the need for herbicides.

Pet waste left on the yard contributes fecal coliform bacteria to storm water.

## What You Can Do

Avoid applying lawn care chemi-

icals before a rain.

Reduce overcasting of lawn care chemicals onto adjacent streets, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. Sweep up the excess. Follow manufacturer instructions for application.

Pickup leaves, grass clippings, tree debris and dirt instead of sweeping or blowing it into the streets and gutters.

Monitor sprinklers to eliminate watering pavement and excessive watering. Determine the minimum amount of water your yard needs and apply when it's cool.

Pickup pet waste and dispose of it in the sanitary sewer or trash container.

Consider composting yard waste.

Look your and how



around home think about you could change

daily and seasonal maintenance habits to be more environmentally friendly.

Remember that storm runoff drains untreated to the Arkansas River.

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle!