

What Is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Hard surfaces like roof tops, sidewalks, streets and driveways prevent the stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



How Can Stormwater Runoff Be A Problem?

As stormwater travels across the ground it transports debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants, to natural waterways such as streams, rivers, and lakes. Anything that enters a storm drain system can be discharged without treatment into natural waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and other forms of recreation. Too much pollution can even pose risks to drinking water sources.

The Effects Of Pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- Sediment clouds water by making it difficult for aquatic plant growth and can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Nutrients and bacteria cause algae blooms. When algae die, they decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low oxygen levels.

- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- Debris such as plastic bags, bottles, cigarette butts, and trash that wash into bodies of water can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous waste like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, motor oils, and automotive fluids can poison aquatic life.
- Polluted stormwater can also contaminate drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and water treatment costs.



What You Can Do

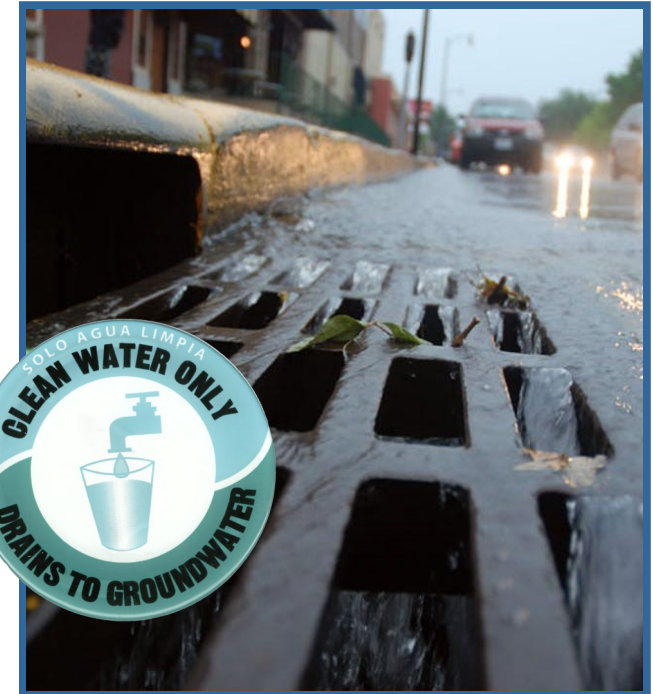
You can protect our water quality by following these simple, but effective steps in this brochure.

It's Up To You!

Your actions make a difference! You have a direct impact on the health of our natural water ways.

City of Idaho Falls Public Works
PO Box 50220, Idaho Falls, ID 83405
380 Constitution Ave., Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: (208) 612-8250
Email: ifeng@idahofallsidaho.gov

Stormwater Pollution Prevention



City Storm Drains Flow To Natural Water Ways



IDAHO FALLS
PUBLIC
WORKS

COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

Residential

Lawn & Garden Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. Yard clippings and leaves that enter storm drains contribute undesirable nutrients and organic matter to streams.



- Don't over-water your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose where appropriate for landscape and garden areas instead of a sprinkler and be

sure to properly adjust your automated timer.

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't dump it into streets, storm drains, or waterways such as canals.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

Pick Up After Your Pets

Rainwater can wash bacteria and parasites from pet waste into the storm drain which flows untreated into our natural waterways.

Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm drain. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.



- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling stations.
- Never dispose of hazardous chemicals and waste automotive fluids in storm drains, street gutters, sinks or toilets.

Around the Neighborhood

Share the importance of adopting stormwater pollution prevention practices with your neighbors.

Education is essential. Visit these websites for educational games and city information:

- ◆ <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/kids/index.cfm>
- ◆ <http://www.idahofallsidaho.gov//370/Stormwater>

Idaho Falls City Code 8-1 (7&8) and 8-14 (1-9)

- ◆ <http://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/view/125>
- ◆ <http://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/view/123>

Household Hazardous Waste

The Environmental Excellence Transfer Station will accept household hazardous waste from 9am to 3pm on the second Saturday in May and again on the second Saturday in September. A complete listing of accepted items and more information can be found by visiting their website:

- ◆ <http://www.co.bonneville.id.us/index.php/public-works/solid-waste>

General

Commercial

Dirt, oil, & debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas can be washed into the storm drain system and eventually enter local waterbodies.



- Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.
- Cover grease storage and dumpsters and maintain them to avoid leaks.
- Report any chemical spills to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality at (208) 528-2650. They'll know the best way to keep spills from harming the environment.

Site Maintenance

Excessive amounts of sediment and debris can be carried into the stormwater system and deposited into local waterbodies.

Construction

- Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas.
- Install erosion controls and properly maintain them.
- Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects, and seed and mulch bare areas as soon as possible.
- Keep contaminants from entering existing storm drain inlets with proper erosion control devices.



General

Automotive Care Facilities



Uncovered fueling stations allow spills to be washed into storm drains. Cars waiting to be repaired can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be

picked up by stormwater.

- Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials.

Ranching & Farming

Agriculture

Lack of vegetation on canal banks and over-grazed pastures can contribute excessive amounts of sediment to local waterbodies. Livestock in streams can contaminate waterways with bacteria, making them unsafe for humans.



- Store and apply manure away from waterbodies and in accordance with a nutrient management plan.
- Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution.