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

Stormwater pollution solutions

Lawn care

- Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.
- Don't over water your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and in the amounts recommended. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

Auto care

- Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a water body.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off locations.

Septic systems

- Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby water bodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.
- Inspect your system every 3-5 years and pump your tank as needed.
- Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

Pet waste

- Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

For more information visit: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
www.claycountygov.com

This is a public service announcement provided in conjunction with the Clay County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program.