

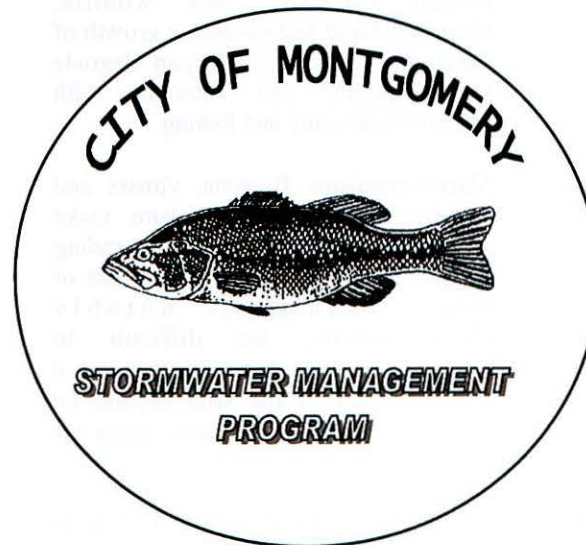
DO NOT dump **ANYTHING** in a storm drain. (Examples of common pollutants dumped in storm drains are used motor oil, used oil filters, grass clippings, leaves, animal wastes, wash water and solvents from residential and commercial operations, etc.)

Practice Erosion and Sediment Control. (Bare soil will erode—sediment carried away from erosion will accumulate in nearby waterways—seed and mulch or sod all bare and disturbed landscaped areas.)

If you have an onsite sewage disposal system (septic tank and field lines, aerobic tank, etc.), make sure it is maintained according to local health department regulations.

The amount of pollution that you stop may seem small but together it all adds up to a cleaner water for everyone to enjoy. For more information, call the City of Montgomery Engineering Department at 241-2696. Fax number is 241-2616; or the Montgomery Clean City Commission at 241-2175.

It is in all our best interests to keep Montgomery beautiful, and that means protecting our resources. Please don't dump anything in a storm drain—motor oil and other pollutants wind up contaminating our waterways. Let's keep it out of the gutter.



<http://eng.ci.montgomery.al.us/stormwater.asp>

CLEANING UP STORMWATER RUNOFF



Catoma Creek Waterfalls

**PUBLISHED FOR THE
CITY OF MONTGOMERY
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM**

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Bobby N. Bright, Mayor

LET'S KEEP IT OUT OF THE GUTTER—AND HELP CLEAN UP STORMWATER RUNOFF

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff is the rain and melting snow that flows off streets, rooftops, lawns and farmland. The flowing water carries salt, sand, soil, pesticides, fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, oil, litter and many other pollutants into nearby waterways. Since these pollutants are washed off a wide area and cannot be traced to a single source, they are called *non-point source* pollutants.

RIVERS BENEATH OUR FEET

In developed areas, much of the land surface is covered by buildings and pavement which does not allow water to soak into the ground. Instead, storm sewers are used to carry the large amounts of runoff from these roofs and paved areas to nearby waterways.

Storm sewers are simply pipes laid underground, often below streets. Inlets or drains located along curbs and in parking areas collect the runoff, which then flows to nearby streams or lakes. A common misconception is that water running off streets flows into a sewage treatment plant. It does not. In fact, stormwater usually receives no treatment. Water that runs off lawns, streets, and parking lots flows directly into lakes and streams, carrying pollutants with it.

STORMWATER IS NOT CLEAN WATER

Stormwater runoff carries pollutants that seriously harm our waters:

- ▶ **Sediment** Soil particles washed off construction sites or farm fields into a lake or stream make the water cloudy or turbid. When sediment settles out of the water, it gradually fills in the stream or lake bed.
- ▶ **Phosphorus** This nutrient, often attached to soil particles, fuels the growth of algae and aquatic weeds. These plants are important in providing habitat for fish and wildlife. However, rapid and excessive growth of algae and aquatic plants can degrade water quality and interfere with swimming, boating and fishing.
- ▶ **Microorganisms** Bacteria, viruses and other disease-causing organisms make waterways unsafe for swimming, wading and other types of recreation. Some of these organisms, notably *Cryptosporidium*, are difficult to remove through water treatment and may endanger people who depend on water supplies drawn from lakes or streams.
- ▶ **Toxic Chemicals** Motor oil, lead from gas and auto exhaust, zinc from roof drains and tires, and pesticides in storm water runoff may kill aquatic organisms or impair their health, growth, or ability to reproduce.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IS NOW THE LAW

Federally mandated Storm water Permits require many industries and cities to control stormwater runoff. Even communities without stormwater permits are implementing regulations that require erosion controls on construction sites and better stormwater management in new development.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Each of us contributes to stormwater pollution and each of us can help minimize it. Here are some ways you can help:

- ▶ **Recycle used motor oil.** (Look for oil recyclers or service stations in your area.)
- ▶ **Keep cars tuned-up and repair leaks.** (Have gaskets and seals replaced at the first sign of leakage.)
- ▶ **If possible, use non-toxic pest control.**
- ▶ **Dispose of household toxic waste containers properly.** (Read label directions.)
- ▶ **If you must use pesticides and herbicides, use sparingly and discard containers according to label directions.**