

When It Rains It Drains

KY Water Awareness Month 2016 Short Media Release

Have you given much thought to storm drains? Storm drains help prevent flooding by draining rainwater and melted snow and ice off paved surfaces. As the water runs off paved surfaces, it enters a storm drain and is carried and released into a nearby waterbody. One common mistake that many people make is that the water runoff, often referred to as stormwater, is treated and cleaned after it enters a storm drain. This is far from the truth. Stormwater that enters a storm drain is typically not cleaned or treated before entering a stream, river, or lake. That means as stormwater flows across parking lots, streets, and sidewalks, it picks up pollutants on the ground. The polluted stormwater then enters a storm drain which transports the stormwater to a nearby water body. As a result, these water bodies have poor water health, and can be hazardous to animals and humans.

You can help prevent stormwater pollution by:

- Using pesticides and fertilizers properly and following all label instructions.
- Picking up after your pet.
- Disposing of all trash properly.

For more information on ways to help prevent stormwater pollution contact your local Extension office.



Storm drain in neighborhood. Image Citation: A. Osborne, UK CAFE.



An unidentified blue substance flowing into a storm drain. Image Citation: Carmen Agouridis, UK CAFE.



Stormwater picks up and carries trash and other pollutants to nearby streams, polluting our local waterbodies. Image Citation: Carmen Agouridis, UK CAFE.

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