

AUTOMOTIVE CARE

Our vehicles can be a major contributor to water pollution. Any grease, oil or other fluids that leak from our cars falls on impervious surfaces such as streets and driveways. When it rains, these harmful pollutants are picked up by the rainwater and transported to the storm sewer system where they are discharged into our lakes and rivers. Follow these simple steps to prevent storm water pollution:



- Keep your car in running in good condition. The less oil and fluids that leak from you care, the less pollutants end up in our waters.
- Properly clean up fluids from any leaks you find.
- Don't dump fluids such as oils, gasoline and coolants into the storm sewer system. Dispose of them properly at approved sites.
- One oil drop off site located in the City is behind the Brainerd Fire Hall located at 23 Laurel Street.

Washing your car and degreasing automobile parts at home can also send detergents, oils and fluids down the storm sewer system. These pollutants can be prevented from entering our waters by doing the following:

- Use commercial car washes as the water used at these businesses goes into the sanitary sewer were it is treated.
- Wash your vehicle on pervious services such as lawns where the water infiltrates into the ground instead of going into the storm sewer.

PET WASTE

Pet waste contains high amounts of harmful bacteria and nutrients that if left on the ground will wash down our storm sewer system and pollute our lakes, rivers and wetlands. Pet waste is one source of stormwater pollution that can easily be prevented. Brainerd City ordinances require all owners to pick up after their pets when they are walking them.



Simply pick up and dispose of your pets waste properly. By doing so you will be helping to keep our City clean and improve our water quality that is so important to us all.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN



City of Brainerd



STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION



**City of Brainerd
City Hall
501 Laurel Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone 218.828.2309
Fax 218.828.2316**

**www.ci.brainerd.mn.us
stormwater@ci.brainerd.mn.us**

HOMEOWNER/BUSINESS FACTSHEET

**Stormwater Information
www.ci.brainerd.mn.us
stormwater@ci.brainerd.mn.us**

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Any precipitation or snow melt that does not get absorbed into the soil but flows over the ground is stormwater runoff. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalk, and streets increase the amount of runoff by preventing stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Minnesota's lakes, rivers, forests and farms all depend on the replenishing waters of annual precipitation. However, when rain falls on land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots and building rooftops it can wash away soil and sediment and pick up oils, fluids and other debris that lead to pollution of our lakes and rivers. This can change both water quality and quantity affecting our water resources physically, chemically and biologically. Polluted stormwater runoff can severely damage our water quality and can have adverse effects on lakes, rivers, wildlife, vegetation and humans as well.



The following is a list of pollutants that are found in stormwater and the negative affects they can have:

- Household hazardous wastes like pesticides, paints, solvents, cleaners, motor oil and other automotive fluids can poison aquatic life and pollute drinking water.
- Sediment from disturbed areas can transport pollutants into our lakes and rivers. Naturally occurring phosphorus found in soils is a nutrient pollutant. Sediment can destroy aquatic habitats by clouding up water making it difficult for plants to grow. It can also cause lakes to fill in causing them age faster.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. Algae remove oxygen from the water when it dies and decomposes. Fish and other organisms need this oxygen to live or they can't exist.
- Debris such as bottles, bags, and cigarette butts can choke, suffocate or disable wildlife such as ducks, fish, turtles or birds.
- Bacteria and other pathogens in pet waste can wash into swimming areas and create health risks.

STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Many activities you do every day at home can affect water quality. Everyday items such as lawn mowing, washing your car or walking you dog can have impacts on storm water quality. Through the following simple measures you can help protect our valuable water resources.

LANDSCAPING

Erosion and sediment from individual lots can lead to storm water pollution. Although individual lots may be small, the total amount of lots in a subdivision can lead to a significant amount of sediment and debris being carried into our storm sewer systems. To help prevent sediment and debris from being deposited in our rivers and lakes you can do the following:

- Do not place soil, mulch or other materials on impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways.
- Cover or protect stockpiles with perimeter control devices to prevent material from being washed into the storm sewer.
- Sweep up any sediment deposited on impervious surfaces.
- Seed all disturbed areas as soon as possible.

LAWN CARE

Improper lawn care can also lead to pollution of our lakes and rivers. Excess fertilizers applied to lawns and gardens can wash off during rain events and end up in our lakes and rivers. Yard clippings and leaves disposed of improperly can also end up in our storm sewer system clogging the storm sewer and contributing excess nutrients and organic matter into our lakes and rivers. To help prevent these problems you can do the following:

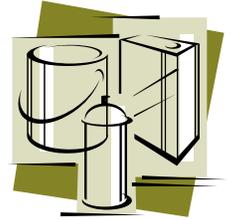
- Don't over water your lawn.
- Used phosphorus free fertilizer as this is required by City ordinance.
- Use only fertilizers and pesticides in recommended amounts. Sweep excess fertilizer from streets and sidewalks.
- Use organic mulch whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste.
- Sweep leaves, grass and other debris into the trash or compost piles. This will keep our streets and storm clean which leads to cleaner rivers and lakes.



HOUSEHOLD WASTES (HHW)

Many products that we use at home such as paints, cleaners, garden chemicals, automotive products and aerosol cans contain hazardous substances. When these products are no longer useful, they become household hazardous waste (HHW). Most commonly used household products can be hazardous to the environment, as well as people, pets and wildlife if they are disposed of improperly.

- Minimize your use of household hazardous wastes.
- Always use and store the products according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Keep chemicals in the original container or properly label them.
- The Crow Wing County Landfill collects most types of household hazardous wastes. Collections are done on the 2nd Wednesday and 2nd Saturday of each month from April through October. For more information about HHW in general, call (218) 824-1290.



SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Winter deicing practices can have major impacts on water quality. Salt and sand are major water pollutants that are difficult to remove once in the water. The next time you are faced with icy sidewalks, consider your options and help keep our waters clean and safe for us to enjoy when it finally warms up.

- Always shovel or plow first.
- Use the minimal amount of salt or sand that is needed.
- Sweep up spills and leftover sand before it washes away and reuse it later.
- Pavement temperature, not air temperature, determines when salts melt ice. Follow the manufactures instructions on the bag.
- Sand does not melt ice; it only provides temporary traction on slippery surfaces when it is too cold for salt to work. Do not mix sand and salt; they actually work against each other.

