

STORMWATER

| WAYS YOU CAN PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION FROM HOME |



BE CAR SMART

When you wash your car on your driveway, the soap, together with dirt, grease, and grime enters nearby storm drains which flow into lakes and streams, impacting water quality for humans and aquatic life. Washing your car at commercial carwashes where the water is recycled and sent to treatment facilities is the best way to minimize your impact to stormwater.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Water from inside our homes goes to a wastewater facility for treatment. Water from roofs, streets, and outdoor spigots goes untreated directly into storm drains and straight to our waterways.

Stormwater pollution occurs when rain or melting snow flows over land or pavement and picks up nutrients, bacteria, sediment, chemicals, trash, or other pollutants as it travels to stormwater inlets. The greatest source of water pollution now comes from everyday activities like residential car washing, cars leaking oils, and yard waste, and fertilizers.

Having a clean environment directly impacts our health and economy. Each one of us in the BVSD community has the opportunity to make a big difference in protecting the water supply which will help support a higher quality of life.

Many common stormwater pollutants are located right outside your home. Some simple, smart choices will help prevent these pollutants from draining into our water supply while supporting a healthier home.

LAWN AND GARDEN CARE

Fertilizer isn't a problem if used carefully. However, if you use too much or apply at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden and into storm drains. Fertilizers support aquatic plant growth at an increased rate, increased algae growth can cause harmful blooms that reduce oxygen levels making water unsafe. Use fertilizers sparingly and don't fertilize before a rain storm to protect your local surface water resources.

