

other household hazardous products like auto fluids and solvents.

### Home repair and construction

Locate nearest storm drain before you get started. In order to protect from debris and materials, use environmentally safe, non-toxic, biodegradable, recycled or recyclable products.



Clean up spills of paints or solvents

immediately. Dispose of properly. Sweep up construction debris such as mortar and concrete.

### Septic system

Septic systems should be inspected by a professional every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years).

Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets (e.g. insecticides, pesticides, paint).

### Swimming pool and spa

Drain the pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels. Drain the



pool and spa into the sanitary sewer system whenever possible.

## CONTACTS

For more information about stormwater pollution prevention

### United States Environmental Protection Agency

[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=6](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6)

### Junction City Stormwater Program

<http://www.junctioncity-ks.gov/pView.aspx?id=1591&catid=3>

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# KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN



## A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater Runoff Problems

Junction City, KS

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?



Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. Polluted runoff from farms, construction sites, homes and public spaces is now widely recognized as the single largest threat to water

quality in the United States.

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER RUNOFF?

When it rains, water flows across impervious surfaces (e.g., asphalt, concrete) that can pick up pollutants like debris, pet waste, salt, chemicals (e.g., pesticides, fertilizer), oil, grease, litter, and soil and goes to a storm sewer system or a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for

swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted stormwater can kill or damage plants, fish and wildlife, while degrading water quality in local watersheds.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER RUNOFF?

### Lawn care

Select native plants, grasses and flowers.

Don't overwater your lawn.

Mow high, typically 3 to 4 inches.

Leave clippings on lawn, they provide nutrients.

Use chemicals like pesticide or fertilizers sparingly. Use recommended amount if needed.

Check streets & sidewalks after applying lawn products; sweep excess into lawn, not the street.

Mulch circles beneath trees and around flower beds.

Don't dump anything down storm drains.



Collect rainwater by using rain barrels. Irrigate your lawn or garden areas with rainwater collected.



### Pet care

Pick up waste and dispose of properly when walking pets.

Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method.

### Auto care

Sweep your garage and driveway debris into a dustpan instead of into the street

Don't wash your car in your driveway or on the street. Either wash your car at a commercial car wash, the lawn or an unpaved surface.

Contain your curbside trash so that it won't leak, fall over or blow around.

Don't litter. Take a walk to pick up litter and debris before it rains.

Recycle used motor oil, and safely dispose of

