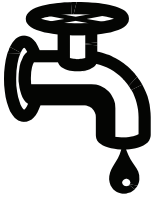




# What You Can Do To Protect Our Local Water

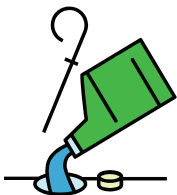


Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer system or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged **untreated** into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Only 1 % of our water is usable drinkable water. We cannot afford to pollute and contaminate it.

Use pesticides sparingly. Fertilize only as needed using natural, organic, or other slow release fertilizers.

Reduce stormwater runoff by directing downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn, plant beds, etc. Use mulch, bricks, gravel or other porous surfaces on driveways and walkways to decrease erosion.

Go to a carwash or wash your car in the grass. Don't wash dirt and cleaners down the driveway into the storm drain.



Recycle used motor oil. Autozone & Valvoline accept used oil. Never dump oil or antifreeze down storm drains which flow into creeks and rivers.

Dispose of any hazardous home chemicals at approved household hazardous waste collections. Use the least toxic products available in your home and garden.



Properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile. Never use streams, creeks, or gutters to dispose of yard waste.



Sweep the dirt and debris from your driveway and walkways back into the yard. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. Hosing dirt and pet waste into storm drains sends it directly to the creeks and rivers.

Choose water-based paints like latex. Paint thinner can be reused and recycled. Do not pour any paint or toxic material down the drain.



Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped at least every 3 years. Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems. Do not flush grease, and personal hygiene products down the toilet or drain.

Recycle all acceptable materials and use your garbage can for all other trash. Don't litter. It will eventually be washed to our creeks and rivers and pollute them.



For additional information:

Storm Water Education -

Stark County Regional Planning Commission

201-3rd St. NE

Canton,OH 44702

330-451-7405

[www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us](http://www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us)

# Only Rain

# Down the

# Drain !

Illicit Discharge/Septic Tanks -

Stark County Health Department

330-493-9904

[www.starkhealth.org](http://www.starkhealth.org)

Construction/Erosion -

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District

330-830-7700

[www.starkswcd.org](http://www.starkswcd.org)

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