

## Visit the Following Web Sites for More Details on Stormwater Management:

- **Maryland Department of the Environment**  
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/PROGRAMS/WATER/STORMWATERMANAGEMENTPROGRAM/Pages/Programs/WaterPrograms/SedimentandStormwater/index.aspx>
- **Chesapeake Bay Program**  
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/stormwater.aspx?menuitem+=19515>
- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**  
<http://www.cbf.org/page.aspx?pid=514>
- **Stormwater Management**  
[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=6](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6)
- **University of Washington Department of Environmental Health & Safety**  
<http://www.ehs.washington.edu/epowaterqual/storm.shtm>
- **North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service**  
<http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/assist/homeassist/stormwater/>

### Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources

Environmental Services Division  
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 610  
Largo, Maryland 20774

**PHONE:** (301) 883-5834  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov)  
[DERcares@co.pg.md.us](mailto:DERcares@co.pg.md.us)

**Water Pollution Line:** (301) 95-CLEAN

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

# Stormwater Management

Be Part of the Solution  
to "People Pollution"



**RUSHEN L. BAKER, III**  
County Executive

# Our Water — Our Future — Ours to Protect

## The Storm Drain: An Unchecked Gateway to Our Streams and Rivers

We have all seen rainwater or melting snow rushing across a parking lot or street and disappearing down the storm drain. Where does the stormwater go?

A common misconception about storm drains is that they carry stormwater to a wastewater treatment plant to be cleansed prior to being piped to the stream. This is not the case.

If you live in a neighborhood built before the late 1980's, stormwater discharges directly into the nearest stream carrying with it every piece of trash and waste picked up along the way!

As more people move into Prince George's County, woodlands and open fields are replaced with new developments, homes, businesses and roadways. Cement and asphalt create impervious barriers to rainwater, preventing it from soaking into the soil and allowing huge volumes of fast-moving stormwater to flow directly into streams. The brown, muddy water that flows into our streams after a storm may be the result of uncontrolled stormwater eroding our stream banks.

### Only Rain Down the Drain

Rainwater that fails to soak into the ground races across paved surfaces, gathering speed and sweeping up any materials found in its path. These materials may include motor oil, antifreeze, gasoline, soil, litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, leaves and grass clippings. Subsequently, these materials are swept into our storm drains. A spill from just one motor oil change can contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh water — the same as a year's supply for 50 people. Polluted stormwater can poison fish and wildlife, rob aquatic organisms of vital oxygen, destroy wildlife habitat, contaminate our seafood supply, and force

the closing of beaches because of health threats to swimmers. Alarming, toxic chemicals spilled into the Chesapeake Bay by contaminated stormwater runoff can equal or exceed the level of contaminants generated by industries, federal facilities and wastewater treatment plants.

### Be Part of the Solution to "People Pollution"

Stormwater pollution begins — and ends — with each of us. Simple changes in our behavior can prevent stormwater pollution.

- Maintain your yard properly by applying and storing fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides correctly.
- Don't litter. Even seemingly small items like cigarette butts can wreak havoc on streams.
- Use water carefully. Monitor your yard irrigation so it doesn't saturate the soil causing excess flow in driveways, sidewalks, streets and storm drains.

- Limit your use of household chemicals, or use them only when necessary. Follow the manufacturer's directions regarding use.
- Properly dispose of household wastes, aluminum cans, paper and plastic, chemicals, cleaners, paints, pesticides, motor oil and other automotive fluids.
- Keep the storm drain clear of leaves and trash.
- Reduce impervious surfaces on your property by using pavers or bricks rather than concrete and asphalt.
- Divert water from paved surfaces onto grassy areas where it can be absorbed.
- Check your car for motor oil or gasoline leaks.
- Visit a car wash instead of washing your car on the driveway or street.
- Consider mass transit, carpooling or other alternatives to driving.
- Report illegal dumping.

Pollutant	Common Sources	Reasons For Concern
Sediment	Construction sites; bare spots in lawns and gardens; wastewater from washing cars and boats on driveways or parking lots; unprotected and eroding stream banks.	Loss or destruction of habitat for fish and plants. Potential navigation hindrances.
Pathogens	Animal and pet wastes; malfunctioning septic systems; sewer overflows.	Serious risk to human health. Closure of shellfish beds and beaches.
Nutrients	Overused or spilled fertilizers; pet waste; grass clippings and leaves left on streets and sidewalks; leaves burned in ditches.	Increased potential for nuisance or toxic algae blooms. Lower levels of dissolved oxygen.
Toxic Contaminants	Car and truck exhaust; metallic debris from brake pads, leaks, or oil and gas spills; improperly applied pesticides.	Serious risk to aquatic life.
Debris/Litter	Improperly discarded plastic, fishing line, six-pack rings, Styrofoam, cigarette butts, grocery store bags, etc.	Potential risk to human health and aquatic life. Unpleasant to see along the side of a road or the bank of a river. Expensive to clean up properly.