

# Stormwater Tips for Homeowners



## Pet Waste



- Pick up pet waste! If left on the ground, especially near streets and sidewalks, it can get washed into the storm drains and drainage ditches which flow directly into your local waterway, without being treated!
- Pet waste contains bacteria and parasites, as well as organic matter and nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorous and should be picked and disposed of properly because they can be harmful to water quality and human health.
- Animal waste adds nitrogen to the water. Excess nitrogen depletes the oxygen in the water that is necessary for underwater life.
- Pet wastes can be disposed of in the trash, flushing down the toilet into the sanitary sewer system, or by burying in your yard.
- Limit livestock in areas near streams and marshes. Animal wastes degrade water quality and their hooves can cause banks to collapse, or erode, and lead to heavy siltation. This could possibly block water flow in streams.

## Swimming Pool Care

- Do not drain chlorinated pool water to a stormwater drain because it runs directly to our local waterways. Even small amounts of pool chemicals can kill fish and other aquatic life.
- Drain hot tubs and swimming pools away from waterways and storm sewers. Chlorinated water is deadly to fish and aquatic life and should be drained onto the ground or into domestic sewers.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals in a covered area to prevent leaks and spills that could make their way to the storm drains.
- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect high chlorine or chemical levels that could be toxic to our waterways.

