

# STORMWATER

What you leave on the landscape can pollute our waters

## What is it?



Stormwater is runoff that flows across the landscape when it rains. Storm drains are designed to catch larger debris and stop it from entering the stormwater system.

## DID YOU KNOW?



In Montana, almost all stormwater flows directly into streams, rivers, and lakes without treatment. That means anything stormwater picks up on the landscape can end up in our waterbodies.

## Why does it matter?

Pollutants on the landscape can threaten aquatic ecosystems and human health when they get in our waterbodies.

Common pollutants include:

- Oil and grease from cars
- Nutrients from yard waste
- Chemicals from herbicides
- Bacteria from pet waste
- Sediment from construction



# What can you do?

Protecting our Montana waters requires us all to act! You can be a Stormwater Steward by pledging to take these actions every day.



Pick up and dispose of pet waste promptly

Repair leaky vehicles quickly and take precautions when conducting maintenance to avoid spills



Avoid using landscaping chemicals when possible

Bag and compost leaves and grass clippings



Build a rain garden to collect runoff from rooftops and pavement

## Want to learn more?

Scan or visit [MontanaWaters.com](https://MontanaWaters.com) to learn about other ways to be a Montana Waters Steward!



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