



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

FALL 2024

MANAGING STORMWATER ON YOUR PROPERTY THIS FALL

Fall is here! And with this change in season comes cooler temperatures, shorter days, and lots of yard work to tackle. When crossing off your to-do-list this fall, it's important to remember that yard debris is a significant source of stormwater pollution.

Organic plant material like grass clippings, leaves, and shrubbery trimmings can carry pesticides and fertilizers from your yard and deposit them in local waterways. Piles of leaves and grass clippings will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion. Yard debris can also clog culverts, storm drains and pipes causing flooding.

Luckily, there are some easy steps that you can take on your property to reduce pollution and improve water quality!



Do not pile leaves or other yard waste near streams or drainage areas where they can blow or wash into creeks. Use designated leaf collection bags for curbside leaf recycling.



Do not blow leaves or grass clippings off of your property into streets, streams, ponds or drainage swales.



Recycle grass clippings and their nutrients by mulching them and leaves into your lawn or piling them in your garden beds. They will add nutrients back into your lawn and provide shelter for wildlife during the winter.



Plant a native tree! Trees provide vital habitat for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than your lawn does.



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Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Winter 2023 – 2024

MELTING SNOW IS STORMWATER TOO!

Stormwater runoff can come in many forms, including snow melt! When the ground is frozen, melting snow can't infiltrate into the soil the way that rain water is able to. This means that even a small amount of snow can cause flooding on your property.

When snow melts, it picks debris and pollutants that make their way into nearby streams and creeks. In the winter, de-icing salts are a main contributor to stormwater pollution, causing detrimental impacts to local wildlife and water quality.

Check out these simple steps that you can take to reduce stormwater runoff on your property this winter!



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Start shoveling early! The more snow you remove, the less salt you'll need to use.



Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity for it to infiltrate into the ground.



Use de-icing salt sparingly. Follow the product instructions and give it time to work. Sweep up any remaining material.



Clear away any snow that may have been thrown onto storm drains.



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Spring 2024

CARING FOR YOUR YARD THIS SPRING

Spring is here and with it comes warmer weather, longer days and lots of yard work! Before you head outside to tackle your latest project, remember that what you do on your yard has a direct impact on the environment. This is especially true when it comes to caring for your lawn.

Lawns are notorious for their negative impacts on wildlife as well as local waterways. Luckily there are lots of small steps that you can take as a homeowner to make your yard more eco-friendly!

Consider these tips to reduce stormwater pollution and create wildlife habitat on your property this spring.



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Clean-up: Collect and dispose of any trash that might have blown into your yard over the winter. Mulch or compost leaves and garden cuttings from the fall so that they don't get washed into local streams.



Fertilize Carefully: Look for slow release nitrogen fertilizer which is less likely to harm water quality. Several small fertilizer applications spread out over the growing season is better than one large application. Never apply fertilizer before it rains!



Plant Natives: Spring is a great time to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials! Native PA species require less maintenance, are more beneficial for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than non-natives.



Mow Sharp and High: A sharp mower blade cuts grass cleanly which improves turf health. Set your mower deck to 2.5" or more to help reduce stormwater runoff. Consider converting a section of your lawn to native garden!



STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

Summer 2024

SUMMER STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Summer is here, a time to for relaxing vacations, cookouts with family and friends, and lounging at the beach or by the pool! While the summer months provide us with opportunity recharge our batteries, it's important to remember that even though we go on vacation, stormwater pollution does not!

Heavy rains brought on by summer thunderstorms causes runoff to rush into local waterways, picking up litter, chemicals and other pollutants along the way. Additionally, hot pavement leads to an increase in the temperature of stormwater entering creeks and streams which can be detrimental for aquatic life.

Luckily there are some easy steps that you can take to reduce stormwater pollution on your property this summer!



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Water your lawn and garden slowly. Only water your grass and plants when necessary. When watering, do so slowly to reduce runoff. Consider investing in irrigation hoses or gator bags!



Wash your car at a car wash. When you wash your car on your driveway or the street, grease, soap and oil can wash into streams and creeks.



Never dump anything down storm drains. Remember that storm drains empty directly into local waterways without being treated. This means that whatever enters a storm drain will flow into streams and creeks.



Direct downspouts over porous, not paved surfaces. Where possible, direct downspouts into garden beds, your lawn or consider installing a rain barrel.