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What is
Stormwater
Runoff?

2

Why is
Runoff
a problem?

3

What Are the
Effects of
Stormwater
Pollution?



Stormwater Awareness



*A Guide to
Understanding
Stormwater
Pollution*

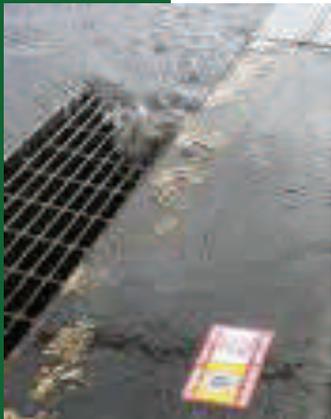
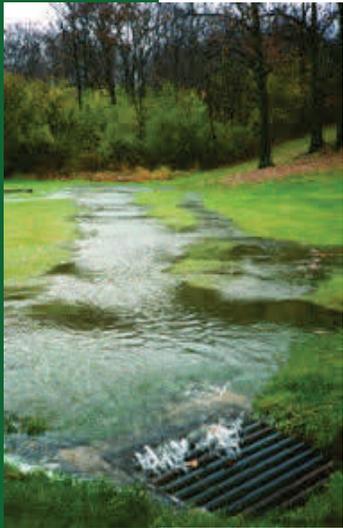
1

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when water flows over the surface of already saturated or impervious landscape.

Surfaces like sidewalks, parking lots, and streets are impervious which prevents water from naturally infiltrating through the ground. Stormwater that enters the drains and catch basins in streets and yards in not cleaned at a waste water

treatment plant. Instead, that water is transported to the nearest river lake or stream, bringing along anything it picked up along the way. Protecting stormwater is key to maintaining healthy rivers, streams, habitats and humans!



2

Why is Runoff a Problem?

Runoff picks up soil, chemicals, and other wastes that can be transported into rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes and oceans.

These contaminants enter the waters untreated and cause adverse effects to drinking water source, recreational activities, and wildlife habitat.

The US EPA sites that the oil from one oil change can contaminate 1 million gallons of water, that's enough to water to supply 50 people for 1 year!

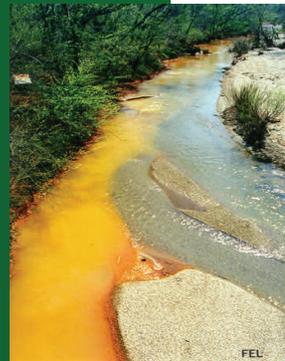


3

What are the Effects of Stormwater Pollution?

People, fish, animals, and plants can all be negatively effected by stormwater pollution.

Over application of fertilizer to yards and fields can cause algae blooms which suffocate aquatic life.



Bacteria and hazardous wastes enter water bodies via runoff and often create health hazards. This type of pollution poses serious threat to drinking water sources. Humans who drink contaminated water can become ill and costs to treat polluted water increases.

Even pollutants that leak from vehicles and other machinery in garages can contaminate stormwater. Trash that is thoughtlessly discarded into roadside ditches can make its way to nearby streams. This trash often traps wildlife and builds up in catch basins which increases flooding.