

WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS. AND IT HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE

Water from inside our homes goes to a wastewater facility for purification. But water from roofs, streets, and outdoor spigots goes untreated directly into storm drains – straight to our waterways – picking up all kinds of contaminants along the way!

DID YOU KNOW

Excess nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, pollute stormwater run-off from urban areas, contributing to the third greatest cause of lake deterioration in the US.

DID YOU KNOW

The amount of phosphorus in grass clippings from mowing your lawn just once can produce up to **100 lbs.** of unwanted algae if it ends up in our lakes and ponds.

DID YOU KNOW

Leaf “litter” and landscape trash accounts for **56%** of phosphorus in urban stormwater, not to mention clogging storm drains, causing potential flooding and increasing debris in our waterways.

DID YOU KNOW

Just one pound of fertilizer over-application on the average lawn can equate to **34.2 lbs.** of excess algae growth in streams and lakes.

DID YOU KNOW

When you wash your car in the driveway, you’re washing about **120 gallons** of grime-filled water downstream. The soap, together with the dirt, grease and grime flows untreated into nearby storm drains, which runs directly into lakes and streams.

DID YOU KNOW

If dog owners don’t clean up after their pooches, **390 million pounds** of poop can wash into our waterways every year just in Colorado! Dog waste contains 10% phosphates and 2% nitrates, contributing to algae growth.

WHY IT MATTERS

Algae looks bad, smells bad, degrades water quality and can be harmful to your health.

As algae decays, it uses up oxygen in the water, leading to a decline in our drinking water quality – and makes it more expensive to treat.

Too many nutrients in streams and lakes cause rapid growth of algae.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Dispose Properly



- Compost or bag your leaves and lawn clippings
- Don't blow leaves or lawn clippings into the street
- Sweep up any spills or overspray of fertilizers on sidewalks or streets

Fertilize Efficiently



- Always follow the manufacturer's application recommendations. More isn't better!
- Fertilizing in the early fall promotes healthy root systems – leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants

Be Car Smart



- Use a commercial car wash, where water is recycled and sent to treatment facilities
- Wash your car on the lawn or gravel
- Dump your soapy bucket in the sink

Pick It Up & Pitch It



- Clean up dog waste and dispose properly

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COLORADO STORMWATER COUNCIL

For more information and tips to preserve our waterways, visit colorado-stormwater-council.org