

What is stormwater pollution?

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that runs off of rooftops, lawns, driveways and streets in our neighborhoods. As it flows, it picks up dirt, leaves and grass clippings, pesticides and fertilizers, oil and grease, harmful bacteria, toxic chemicals, litter and other contaminants. All of these pollutants are carried by stormwater into storm drains and ultimately into our streams and rivers. Polluted stormwater runoff is also called "nonpoint source pollution" because the pollution problems come from many different sources, as opposed to a "point source" such as a factory or municipal sewage treatment plant.



What are some of the typical pollutants dumped into a storm drain and then into waterways?

- ◆ Antifreeze & Motor Oil
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Trash and Litter
- ◆ Pesticides & Fertilizers
- ◆ Dirt, Leaves and Grass



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KEEP IT CLEAN
DRAINS TO
STREAM

Be a Solution
to Water Pollution
by Storm Drain
Stenciling



What is storm drain stenciling?

Storm drain stenciling is a way to paint messages on storm drains so that people will not dump anything down a storm drain. The drains usually have messages that say "Keep It Clean, Drains to Stream."

You can be a solution to stormwater pollution.

Stenciling a storm drain is a small effort that brings a large result. Stenciling a message such as "Keep It Clean, Drains to Stream" conveys to the public that everything that goes down a storm drain flows, untreated, into a nearby stream.

Citizens can help educate others not to dump trash, yard clippings or other debris by stenciling storm drains.



Stenciling is easy.

The storm drain stenciling program is organized by your local government. Kits are loaned to local organizations and civic groups and include supplies necessary to stencil the drains. The contents include a can of marking paint, latex gloves, directions and an inventory sheet.



Stenciling brings people together.

Community organizations and civic groups across the metropolitan area can stencil storm drains. If you belong to one of the types of groups listed below, see if they want to help "Be a Solution To Water Pollution."

- Youth groups
- Schools
- Service clubs
- Ecology clubs
- Neighborhood associations

Did you know that your group can give out awards and service badges to its members for stenciling?



Businesses can stencil too.

Businesses and commercial property owners can benefit from having stenciled storm drains too. Stenciled messages teach valuable lessons to employees and other tenants of a building to take pride in their workplace. It also shows the public that businesses care about protecting our water resources.

What happens when a stencil wears away?

Sunlight and other elements will eventually weather away painted messages. When you see a message fading, contact your local government to stencil the drain again.

If you are interested in participating in a stenciling activity, contact your local government. Visit cleanwatercampaign.com for a listing of stenciling events going on in your community.

