

Protecting our Storm Water, It's Up to Each of Us!

In Sandy City, storm drains flow directly to our environment as they enter our local irrigation ditches, canals, creeks and rivers with NO Treatment. Degradation of storm water is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near streams or use them for recreation.

What are some common sources of pollution in storm water? Spilled oil, fuel and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment, construction debris, landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

To control storm water, Sandy City operates and maintains a system of underground pipes and catch basins to transport rain and snow melt into the ground, rivers and streams. This water does not get treated so we need to keep contaminants out of our storm drains.

Little Known Facts about Storm Water Systems:

Storm drains do NOT treat the water that flows into the drains.

RV and pet waste flow directly into our environment causing foul odors and pollution. No one, including fish, want

to swim and recreate in polluted waters.
Dump RV Waste at Approved Sites and Pick Up your Pet Waste and Dispose in Trash.

Storm drains do NOT prevent flooding when clogged.

Storm drains are designed to prevent flooding. When weeds, dirt, grass clippings and leaves are left on the road and parkstrips, they eventually find their way to the drain and can cause flooding when clogged.

Keep the Areas Around your Storm Drains Clear of Debris.



We All Live Downstream
stormwatercoalition.org



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**Sandy City Department
of Public Utilities**

QUESTION: Which of the following activities is a major source of water pollution in Sandy City?

- A. Washing the car on the driveway
- B. Fertilizing the lawn before it rains
- C. Failure to clean up oil leaks and spills
- D. Hosing yard or pet waste into the gutter
- E. All of the above

ANSWER: Incredibly, the answer is not only “E”, but many more everyday chores. How you perform some household tasks has a big impact on our streams and lakes. In Sandy City and Salt Lake County, and across the nation, a major source of surface water contamination is stormwater (rain, sleet and melted snow).

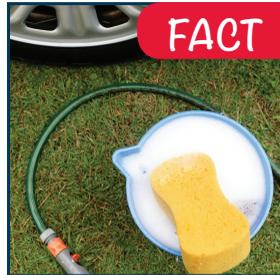
By itself this runoff is clean, but as it flows across streets and driveways into gutters, the water collects dirt, litter, car oil, pesticides, lawn clippings and other wastes. This untreated water drains directly into natural waterways. Even water from your garden hose can add to the problem. Fortunately, there are simple ways to protect our water while performing daily activities, as the accompanying chart explains.



POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Fertilizer accelerates the growth of aquatic plants, which rob waterways of oxygen when they decay. Pesticides and herbicides create adverse effects on fish and water bugs, a vital component of the aquatic food chain.

Pollution Solution: Target your use of fertilizers; sweep up excess. Target your use of pesticides/herbicides on the lawn and garden.



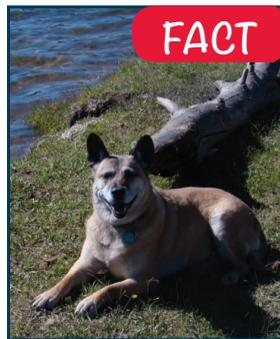
FACT

Cleaning products, including those you might use to wash your car, are toxic to fish, stimulate algae and plant growth and upset the ecosystem by impacting animal life.

Pollution Solution: Wash your car on the lawn and use biodegradable soap or use a commercial car wash.

Yard waste—such as grass clippings, leaves and flowers clogs storm drains and, as it decays, robs streams of oxygen. Dirt, dust and sand bury fish food and cloud the water, affecting the ability of fish to feed.

Pollution Solution: Mulch or compost your lawn clippings. Sweep dirt onto the lawn. Pick up debris and put it in the trash.



FACT

Pet waste releases bacteria, diseases and viruses into streams.

Pollution Solution: Pick up pet waste, bag it and discard, or flush it down the toilet.

Dyes and paints can interfere with the ability of fish to breathe, plants to grow, and water bugs to reproduce. Antifreeze is poisonous to plants and animals, and seriously depletes oxygen in water. A single quart of motor oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.

Pollution Solution: Rinse water based paint (e.g. latex) out in the sink. Dispose of oil-based and water-based paint containers and brushes in the garbage after they are empty and/or dry. Take excess paint and other chemicals to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.



FACT



FACT