

## The effects of pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- ◆ **Sediment** can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- ◆ **Excess nutrients** can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

- ◆ **Debris** —plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.



- ◆ **Household hazardous wastes** like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish or ingesting polluted water.

- ◆ **Polluted stormwater** often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snow melt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



## Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

*For more information contact:*

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# After the Storm...

*A guide for businesses and other private property owners*



**DIRT**, oil, and debris that collect in parking lots, sidewalks, and other paved areas can be washed into the City of Englewood's storm drain system and eventually into the South Platte River. Below are some ways to control stormwater pollution.



## All Properties

- Ensure hazardous waste disposal practices are performed in accordance with federal, state, and local requirements.
- Store all containers of liquids indoors or under cover. If the containers must be stored outside, label each container and provide secondary containment. Secondary containment can include a double-walled container or tall curbing around the storage area.
- In the event of a spill, use adsorbent materials to properly clean up the spill instead of hosing it down a storm drain inlet.
- Complete all maintenance of equipment and vehicles under cover or indoors.
- Always keep dumpster lids closed so that precipitation does not enter the dumpster and wash pollutants into a nearby storm drain inlet
- Don't wash out dumpsters so that the wash water enters a storm drain inlet.
- Properly recycle or dispose of all wastes.



- Properly clean out grease traps.
- Clean trash, sand, and debris from storm drain inlets to keep them flowing properly.
- Follow the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE's) power/pressure washing guidelines. Power washing wastewaters require a permit from CDPHE. Download the document from [colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ%20LOW%20RISK%20POWER%20WASHING\\_o.pdf](http://colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ%20LOW%20RISK%20POWER%20WASHING_o.pdf)  
Try using dry cleaning methods (i.e., sweeping or vacuuming) for parking lots and sidewalks.
- DO NOT wash out painting supplies over storm drain inlets.
- DO NOT pour liquid waste down storm drain inlets.
- Avoid sanding or spray painting outdoors in windy weather and collect and properly dispose of sanding waste.
- Educate employees on the importance of stormwater quality.
- Regularly inspect the property for any potential stormwater polluting activities.
- Report any illegal discharges to the City of Englewood, Utilities Department.

*Education is essential to changing people's behavior.*

*The City of Englewood has marked all storm drains on public streets.*

*These signs warn citizens that pollutants entering the drains will be carried to South Platte. Please contact us if you would like the storm drains on your property marked.*



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## Automotive Repair and Fueling Facilities

- Wash vehicles at a car wash or indoors with approved drains to the sanitary sewer system. If vehicles have to be washed outdoors, make sure that the wash water does not drain to a storm drain inlet which would then flow, untreated, to primarily the South Platte River.
- Regularly maintain oil/water separators in the shop area.
- Discourage "topping off" of fuel tanks.
- Install "shut-off" valves on nozzles.
- Install spill kits next to areas with a high potential for spills (fueling and maintenance areas).
- Use drip pans for any leaking vehicle or equipment waiting to be maintained.
- Complete all maintenance of equipment and vehicles under cover or indoors.
- Properly dispose of greasy rags, oil filters, air filters, batteries, spent coolant, and degreasers.
- Store used materials, such as batteries, indoors or under cover.
- DO NOT wash parts or equipment outside.

