



## Storm Water Pollution

Surface water pollution is a continuing problem throughout the United States. According to the EPA, the 1996 National Water Quality Inventory indicated that approximately **40 percent of surveyed U.S. surface waters did not meet water quality standards**. Polluted storm water runoff is believed to be one of the leading sources of this contamination.

Storm water runoff in the City of Surprise is largely transported through our streets and open channels directly to our community retention basins, city parks, washes, and nearby rivers. This **untreated** storm water runoff generally re-enters our water supply through ground water recharge. So while the City of Surprise on average receives less than nine inches of rainfall a year, storm water quality is still a serious concern.

Polluted storm water can aid in the spread of viruses and diseases; provide a breeding place for mosquitoes and other nuisance insects; and, negatively impact drinking water supplies and plant and wildlife habitats.



**CALL** the Stormwater Pollution Hotline, 623.875.4290.

### Always be sure to report:

- ▶ Dumping of chemicals
- ▶ Suspicious dry-weather discharges to the storm water system
- ▶ Sediment runoff and track-out from poorly controlled construction sites
- ▶ Leaking vehicles
- ▶ Standing water

**VISIT** the Water Services Department web page to learn more about what you can do to help reduce storm water pollution.



**SURPRISE**  
ARIZONA

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# THE SOLUTION TO STORM WATER POLLUTION



A GUIDE TO HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEANER WATER

# Preventing Storm Water Pollution at Home

## Lawn and Garden

- ▶ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be wasted and washed into the storm water system.
- ▶ Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- ▶ Don't over-water your lawn. Water during cool times of the day. Check and correct sprinkler heads for overspray onto sidewalks or driveways. These practices will prevent water from running off into the storm water system and will save water and money.
- ▶ Cover piles of dirt and mulch during landscaping projects to prevent them from blowing or washing off your yard and into the storm water system.
- ▶ Prevent soil erosion by applying ground cover such as xeriscape materials and plants over bare areas in your yard.



## Did you know?

- ▶ One gallon of used oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh water – a one-year supply for 50 people.
- ▶ One quart of oil can create a oil slick large enough to cover two acres (over 1.5 football fields).

locations, or the Department of Public Works at 623.583.0947 for information on hazardous waste disposal event dates and times.

- ▶ Runoff from washing your vehicle can cause detergent, oil, grease, and brake particles to enter the storm water system. Please use a commercial car wash, or wash your vehicle on grassy or gravel surfaces, to keep contaminants out of the storm water system.

## Vehicles

- ▶ Recycle oil. **Never dump** waste oil, engine coolant or other automotive waste products into the storm water system, down the drain, or dispose of them in your trash. Dispose of these items at designated drop-offs or recycling locations. Call the recycling hotline at 623.594.5858 for information on recycling

## Pet Care

Pet waste carries diseases and harmful bacteria. Uncontained pet waste can mix with rainwater and cause storm water pollution. Exposure to storm water contaminated with pet waste can cause people and animals to become sick. **Please be mindful of our environment and pick up after your pet.**



## Home Repair

Use and store hazardous substances such as paints, solvents and cleansers in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. **Never dump** these chemicals into the storm water system, down the drain, or dispose of them in your trash. Call the Public Works Department at 623.583.0947 for information on hazardous waste disposal event dates and times.

## Preventing Storm Water Pollution for Businesses

Business owners and operators also have a responsibility to prevent storm water pollution. The potential of contributing to storm water pollution can increase depending on the size and nature of a business's operations. Businesses can help by training their employees on proper handling and disposal of chemicals and by keeping parking areas and storm water system inlets clean.