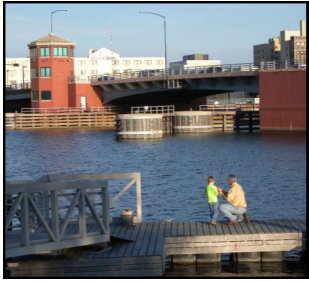


You can help protect Northeast Wisconsin waters!



Northeast Wisconsin residents rely on clean water for recreation, business, health & safety. Area wildlife depends on clean water for habitat and food..



When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on our streets, sidewalks, parking lots and gutters wash down storm drains and into the nearest body of water.

Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter water or debris, nor are they connected to the sanitary sewer system. Any pollutant that flows into a storm drain ends up in our local lakes and rivers. Urban runoff pollutants come from many different sources, such as leaking cars, pet waster, dirt and sediments, and litter.



The good news is that urban runoff pollution is preventable! As Northeast Wisconsin residents and/or business owners, we simply need to work together and change a few habits to benefit our health, our families and our community. Remember every bit of pollution hurts.



*For more information,
contact your local municipality*

Contacts for more information

To report an illegal discharge of pollutants into a storm drain contact:

Your local community's
storm water department

If you would like more information about what you can do to impact water quality in Northeast Wisconsin visit:

RenewOurWaters.org

Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium
P.O. Box 1861
Appleton, Wisconsin 54912
Phone: 920-858-4246

Greenhouses, Garden Centers & Nurseries



*Best Management Practices to
keep our waterways clean!*

**Renew
Our Waters**

Every choice counts.

STORMWATER ISSUES

Sprinkler runoff from greenhouses, garden centers and nurseries can carry pesticides and fertilizers into the storm drain system. In addition, grass clippings, leaves and other plant waste swept or blown into the street can clog catch basins and pollute waterways. Common pollutants found in nurseries, garden centers and greenhouses that can be carried to the storm drain system by irrigation water or stormwater runoff include:

- Soil
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Plant waste
- Compost and mulch
- Other trash

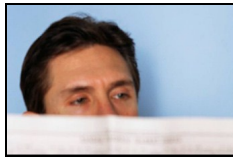
Operating practices that allow these materials to flow into the storm drain systems contribute directly to the impairment of our creeks, rivers, lakes and bay. Anything that enters the storm drain system, including landscaping waste, flows untreated into area waterways. By following the guidelines in this brochure, your business can help prevent stormwater pollution.



**Remember: Only Rain
Down the Storm Drain!**

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Only rain should go down the storm drain. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific steps to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities in a nursery, garden center or greenhouse. The BMPs address potential flow of pollutants to storm drains and "illicit discharges" such as any spills or wastes that have been released and are not actively being cleaned up. All gardening facility staff should review this information sheet as a training tool, and make every effort to keep pollutants from going down the storm drain by putting the following BMPs into practice.



Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Read the product label and follow the directions on all fertilizers and pesticides, using only as directed.



Never apply fertilizer or pesticide before a rain.



Store fertilizers, pesticides and other toxic garden chemicals in a covered area and in sealed, waterproof containers.



Cut your water costs and prevent runoff by controlling the amount of water and direction of sprinklers. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.



Use temporary check dams or ditches to divert irrigation runoff away from storm drains.



Keep spill containment kits ready in case of a spill and store kits in convenient locations.



Compost plant waste, instead of blowing, sweeping or hosing it into the street or gutter.



Place temporarily stockpiled material away from watercourses and storm drain inlets, and berm and/or cover them.



Do not dispose of landscaping wastes in streets, waterways, or storm drainage system.



Don't put liquids in your dumpster or rinse it out - request a dumpster exchange from your waste hauler instead. Keep dumpster lids closed to prevent rain from entering.



Frequently sweep outside areas, including parking lots, outdoor eating areas, and dumpster areas. Avoid hosing them down.



High pressure washing or hosing of parking lots and sidewalks must be contained, recaptured and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system.