



# Ways You Can Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

## Why should I care?

Contaminated or polluted stormwater can lead to significant water quality problems.

- Sediment clouds the water-making it difficult for aquatic plants to grow and destroying aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients cause algae blooms. Oxygen levels are depleted when the algae die and decompose. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't live when oxygen levels decrease.
- Bacteria and other pathogens (commonly found in fecal waste) discharged in swimming areas create health hazards and cause beach closings.
- Debris washed into the water can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life (ducks, fish, turtles and birds).
- Household hazardous wastes (insecticides, pesticides, paint, and auto fluids) can poison aquatic life.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources-human health is at risk and water treatment costs rise.

## Lawn and Garden Maintenance

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.
- Select native plants and



grasses that are drought tolerant and pest resistant.

- Compost or recycle yard waste.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch to prevent them from washing into drains.
- Do not discharge or blow grass into gutter lines, catch basins, and the streets.
- Plant grass or vegetation where soil is exposed.

## Cigarette Butts and Other Trash

- Put your cigarette butts and other litter in garbage bins.
- If there is no garbage bin handy, hold onto your litter until you find one.



Pitch in and help clean up littered areas. Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.

## Hazardous Waste and Solvents

- Use hazardous substances (paints, solvents, cleaners) in the smallest amounts possible.
- Store substances properly.
- Clean water based painting supplies over soil.
- Filter and reuse paint thinner.



Dispose of excess paints during household hazardous waste collection programs.

Clean up spills immediately.

- Dispose of solvent waste by following the instructions printed on the label.

## Swimming Pool and Spa Care

- Drain your pool only when the test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area.



## Pet Waste Management

- When walking your pet, pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.
- Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method.
- Do not dispose of pet waste near storm drains, culverts, ditches or waterbodies.

## Vehicle Maintenance and Repair

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain, culvert or ditch.



- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, machinery and equipment for leaks and spills.

- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain, in culverts or ditches, or dispose of them in your trash.

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention:

**You can make a  
difference!**

## Contact Information

Sikeston City Hall  
573-471-2512

Street Department  
573-475-3731

Planning & Zoning Dept.  
573-471-2511

Board of Municipal Utilities  
573-471-3328

## Informational Resources

[http://www.sikeston.org/  
stormwater.htm](http://www.sikeston.org/stormwater.htm)

[http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/  
stormwater/sw-local-gov-programs.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/stormwater/sw-local-gov-programs.htm)

**Report**



## Construction Runoff

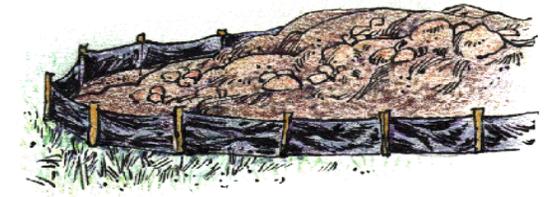
Help the City of Sikeston protect our watershed by reducing pollutants in stormwater.



### How is construction runoff harmful?

Sediment runoff from active construction sites is one of the nations leading water resource pollutants. Sediment and other pollutants, such as cement, paint, fuel, and oil, from construction sites can cause physical, chemical, and biological harm to our nations water. Polluted storm water runoff from construction sites flow into the storm drain system and is discharged into our local rivers and streams.

The City of Sikeston will be requiring all construction sites to install and maintain erosion controls such as silt fencing to keep sediment on the site.



silt fence

### Monitor Construction Activities In Your Watershed

If you know of a construction site that may be contributing sediment to a road, street, or waterway (creek, river, pond, or lake), report it by calling (573) 471-2511.

### What to look for:

- Muddy water flowing down/in street from construction site
- Tracking of mud in road from construction site
- Silt fences falling down
- Trash, litter, and construction debris not cleaned up daily
- Concrete waste