



What is storm water and why do we need to manage it?

Federal and State laws regulating water quality and the management of storm water necessitate that the City of Massillon re-evaluate the way it manages the water that runs off impervious surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, or rooftops.



Storm water runoff carries pollutants directly to the Tuscarawas River and creeks and has the potential to create not only drainage and flooding problems but water quality issues throughout the city.



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Storm Water *focus*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF MASSILLON

Car Care and Your Water:

What's the Connection?

Your car and how well you maintain it have a significant impact on the lakes and streams near you. Cars carry many different hazardous fluids and require natural resources to run. How efficiently or inefficiently our cars use these resources and carry these fluids has a direct impact on our environment. When a vehicle is poorly maintained, and the maintenance activities are carelessly conducted, chemicals may spill or drip onto the pavement and, eventually, are carried by snow melt or rain into our streams and lakes. A well-maintained vehicle uses less gasoline and runs more efficiently without dripping chemicals onto the pavement or spewing excess exhaust into the air. Follow these simple guidelines to reduce the impact your car has on our streams, lakes and rivers – and save yourself money, too!

Car washing

Use water friendly soaps! The safest products for the environment are vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps. Minimize the amount of water running into a storm drain by washing your car on the lawn instead of the driveway.



Car fluids

Vehicle fluids include any fluid normally used during operation, such as engine oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid, and radiator fluid. When these fluids leak or drip out of the car onto the pavement or are improperly disposed, even in small amounts, they eventually run off into storm drains. Have your vehicle checked for leaks at least once every three months. If you change your own oil, be sure to dispose of the used motor oil at an oil recycling center. Call your local businesses to find the most convenient place for you to dispose of your used fluids properly.

Is Your Home Improvement Project Water Friendly?

What a rewarding feeling it is to complete your own home improvement project! But did you know certain practices could contribute to water quality problems in Massillon's ditches and streams if special care isn't taken? Rainwater washes wastes from roads, driveways and yards into the nearest storm drain and/or body of water.

Unlike the wastewater in your home which is cleaned at a wastewater treatment plant, anything that goes into a storm drain is routed directly into ditches, streams, retention basins and lakes... untreated!

The following suggestions will help you decrease the amount of pollution coming from your home.

Painting dos & don'ts

When painting your house, trim, fencing or anything outside, consider alternatives to your usual routine. A little bit of planning can go a long way in reducing the impact your activities have on our water resources.

TIP: Use latex paint.

Choose water-based paints over oil-based paints. They're less toxic.

TIP: Keep track of paint age.

Don't use paints over 15 years old because they may contain toxic levels of lead.

TIP: Dispose of paints properly.

Excess paint, thinners, solvents, saturated rags, empty aerosol cans, lead paint chips and chemical paint stripping residue are considered hazardous waste and should be taken to a household hazardous waste site.

TIP: Recycle!

Reuse paint thinner or cleaning solvents. Set aside in a closed jar to settle out paint particles, then pour off clear liquid for future use. Be sure you label the jar so you don't forget what is inside!

TIP: Buy only what you need.

Try to determine the amount of paint you will need. If you have too much, save it and donate it to an organization.

Landscaping

Many landscaping projects have the potential for exposing soils and adding chemicals to your lawn and garden. When fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are not applied correctly, storm water will wash the excess into nearby lakes, streams, and storm drains.

Here's how you can prevent erosion and reduce the impact of your lawn and garden on water resources:

TIP: Watch the weather.

Schedule grading projects for dry weather and replant as soon as possible. If there is lag time between the grading and the final planting, temporary vegetation may be necessary, like an annual grass seed.

TIP: Landscape with hardy plants.

*Choose disease- and pest-resistant plant varieties appropriate for your soil and **climate**.*

TIP: Mulch it!

Cover exposed soil in the garden with 2-3 inches of mulch to prevent weeds from surfacing. Don't forget, pulling weeds is a great alternative to spraying with chemicals!

TIP: Let your clippings lay.

Cut grass is natural mulch (and free fertilizer) for your lawn. A mulching mower will cut clippings into tiny pieces, and will allow for quicker and easier decomposition.

TIP: Compost... the miracle drug for your yard.

Compost is a natural, slow-release fertilizer that retains water when added to sandy soils and improves drainage when added to clay soils.