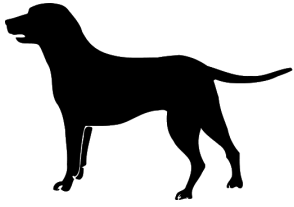


# Common Stormwater Pollutants

## And How to Prevent Them From Entering Our Waterways



### **Pet Waste**

Pick up after your pets. Animal waste may contain bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites. These contaminate our reeks when rain carries waste into the water.

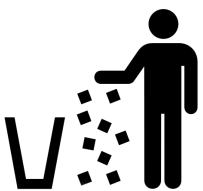
### **Mop Water & Cleaning Chemicals**

Mop water and cleaning chemicals can be toxic to wildlife, alter water chemistry, and add bacteria to the water. Dispose of mop water down a sink or drain connected to the sewer system so it can be treated. Check with manufacturer to see whether the chemical should be put down a sink or brought somewhere special.



### **Plant Clippings & Leaves**

Help keep waterways clear of leaves and yard waste. In addition to causing algae, the waste obstructs culverts leading to potential flooding. Chipper and paper leaf bag collections are a complimentary service provided by Oak Hill.



### **Trash**

Not only is littering unlawful, but it has harmful effects on waterways as well. Always dispose of things in a trashcan or recycling bin.

### **Cooking Oil & Grease**

Dispose of these in the trash. Oil and grease clog pipes and create problems for wastewater plants when dumped down a sink. If they solidify, let them do so before disposal. Otherwise pour the oil in a seal-able container and throw it away.



### **Motor Oil, Antifreeze, Etc.**

These are toxic to the water and wildlife in it. Check your car for leaks and get them fixed. When changing fluids at home, work carefully to prevent spills and NEVER dump or throw away the used oil. Check with auto stores to see how you can recycle the used fluids.



### **Car Wash Soap**

The soapy water and all of the pollutants washing off of your car are harmful. When washing at home, do so in the grass so that the soil can filter out these chemicals.



### **Fertilizer**

Fertilizer contains high levels of nitrate and phosphorus, which cause excess algae and low oxygen levels in the water that kill aquatic life. Don't over fertilize, don't apply right before a big rain, and remember to sweep up any fertilizer on pavement once you're done applying it.

## Remember...

*Although soil is a pretty good filter, it too is not perfect, allowing pollutants to make their way through to waterways. Chemicals can be toxic to wildlife and alter water chemistry. Some phosphates and nitrates are good for water, excessive levels can cause explosive growth in aquatic plants & algae, lower oxygen levels, and even severe illness. So remember... dumping anything into streets or waterways is **ILLEGAL**.*



**To report an illegal dumping please call City of Oak Hill at [615-371-8291](tel:615-371-8291).**