

STORMWATER RUNOFF



What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water.

Unlike sanitary wastewater from our homes, stormwater does not receive treatment, and it is discharged into our waterways. While catch basins may prevent some pollutants from entering a storm drain pipe, some pollutants such as motor oil and pet waste can enter a drain and flow directly into our waterways. These pollutants can harm aquatic life and degrade water quality, resulting in restricted use of waterbodies for fishing, boating, and swimming.



Urban stormwater runoff is considered a big contributor to coastal marine pollution. Both human forces (i.e. irrigational runoff from lawns and gardens and illegal dumping) and natural forces (i.e. wind and rain) move trash and other pollutants into our natural waterways, storm drains, and flood control channels.

The pollution prevention messages from storm drain stenciling remind people that oil, soap, fertilizer, gum, food wrappers, cigarette butts, and chip bags do not belong in storm drains or our waterways!

For more information about stormwater runoff, visit these resources:

Environmental Protection Agency:

“After the Storm”: <http://water.epa.gov/action/weatherchannel/stormwater.cfm>

Stormwater program: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6

Nonpoint Source Pollution: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/index.cfm>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection:

Stormwater Program: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/npdes/>

Please report environmental violations to 305-455-6585 or to Miami Dade County "311"