



WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. It is critical to allow clean stormwater runoff to soak into the ground to replenish drinking water supplies. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

WHY IS STORMWATER A THREAT TO DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and carry them into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

The City is working cooperatively with business owners to implement stormwater preventive measures to help protect drinking water supplies. Treating drinking water is becoming increasingly expensive so keeping groundwater and surface waters clean saves money and keeps you safe and healthy.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT YOUR BUSINESSES TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES?

- Recycle or properly dispose of hazardous waste such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.
- Don't over water your lawn.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts.
- Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.
- Cover grease storage and dumpsters and keep them clean to avoid leaks.
- Report any chemical spills to the local hazardous waste cleanup team.

WHERE CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

Detailed information can be obtained by visiting the MPCA Stormwater website at:
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/index.html>.

City Contact Info:



www.mrwa.com