

Ten Ways Homeowners Can Improve the Quality of Stormwater Runoff

1. Cover piles of soil, sand or mulch to stop them from being transported in stormwater. Plant grass where soil is exposed.



2. Sweep your sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them down.

3. Put leaves and grass clippings in the compost, on the garden as mulch, or mow back into the lawn to recycle nutrients.

4. Divert roof water to lawns or gardens where it can safely soak in.



5. Keep pesticides, oil, leaves and other pollutants off streets and out of storm drains.

6. Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks - better yet, walk.

7. Wash your vehicle on grass or over gravel. Use as little detergent as you can and pour any left over soapy water onto the lawn.

8. Dispose of household hazardous waste according to the label directions.

9. Clean up pet waste - bury it or flush it down the toilet.

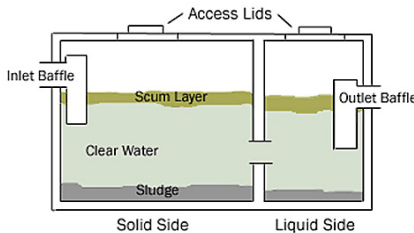
10. Never dump anything down storm drains! Water from these drains flows untreated to the river.



SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

Tips for minimizing groundwater contamination and prolonging the life of your system

What's the Problem?



Very little maintenance is required for a properly designed and operating

septic tank. However, the consequences of a malfunctioning system are very costly and unpleasant. Faulty septic systems not only cost thousands of dollars to repair, but also contaminate groundwater and pollute nearby waterways.

Remember, all substances disposed of via any drain in the home will end up in the septic tank.

What Can You Do?

To maximize the life of your septic system and keep it functioning properly, remember the following tips:



- Conserve water. Repair leaky faucets. Install low-flow toilets and showerheads and consider using front-loading washing machines. Only run full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.



- Inspect and pump out your septic at least every 2-3 years. Use only

reputable, licensed contractors. A licensed septic waste-hauler can determine your tank capacity and advise you on a recommended pumping frequency.



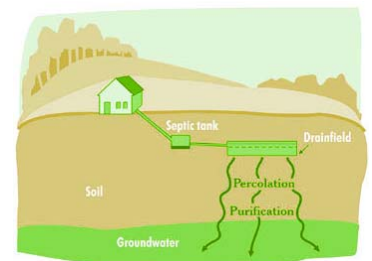
- Garbage disposals increase the frequency of septic pumping by about 20%. Consider composting food scraps instead.



- Flush responsibly – only human waste, wastewater, and toilet paper.

- Don't dispose of hazardous household waste in sinks or toilets.

- Plant only grass over and near your septic system.



Roots from trees or shrubs may clog and damage the system.

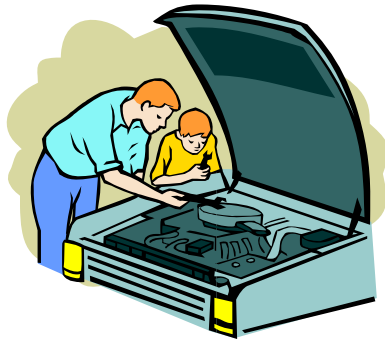
- Keep gutters and sump pumps from draining into or near your septic system to avoid flooding.
- Never drive or park anything heavier than a lawn tractor over your septic field.

For more information, please contact the Village of Wadsworth at (847) 336-7771.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Environmentally sensitive practices for auto maintenance and repair

What's the Problem?



Maintaining your own vehicle can be good for your wallet, and affords many car owners a sense of pride. However, when

not performed carefully, routine maintenance and repairs contribute to storm water pollution.

When it rains, storm water runoff picks up heavy metals, oil, grease, and other pollutants from driveways, roads, and other paved surfaces.

Unlike water that enters sanitary sewers, storm water runoff does not undergo treatment before discharging directly into our waterways.



Motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, and other vehicle fluids degrade water quality and impact aquatic habitats. They can kill or damage plants, fish, and wildlife, and degrade the quality of our water.

What Can You Do?

When maintaining your vehicle, you can minimize storm water pollution by doing the following:

- ◆ Repair all fluid and oil leaks immediately.
- ◆ Change fluids carefully. Use a funnel when pouring liquids and place a tray underneath to catch spills.
- ◆ Keep absorbent materials handy, such as clean up kits, kitty litter, sawdust, or cornmeal. Clean up spills immediately.
- ◆ Perform work in designated, covered areas help to prevent contamination of rain water runoff.
- ◆ Properly separate and dispose of used fluids. Recycle fluids when available.



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WASH YOUR CAR THE RIGHT WAY

Caring for your vehicle while minimizing your impact on the environment

What's the Problem?



For many Americans, car washing is a warm weather ritual. Unfortunately, many people are not aware that the water that

runs off their pavement contains substances that pollute the environment.

When cars are washed on streets or driveways, dirty water containing soap, detergents, residue from exhaust fumes, gasoline, heavy metals, and motor oils ends up in nearby creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes.



Unlike water that enters sanitary sewers, water entering storm drains does not undergo treatment before discharging directly into our waterways.



Pollutants associated with car washing degrade water quality and impact aquatic habitats. It can kill or damage plants, fish, and wildlife, and degrade the quality of our water.

While washing just one car may not seem like much, collectively, car washing adds up to big problems.

What Can You Do?

Washing your car is only a problem if you don't do it correctly. The best way to minimize the negative effects of car washing is to use a commercial car wash. Most car wash facilities recycle and reuse wash water multiple times before sending it to a treatment plant.



If you chose to wash your car at home, follow these important tips:

- ◆ Use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners only.
- ◆ Minimize water usage and runoff by using a spray gun with flow restriction.
- ◆ Wash on an area that absorbs water, such as grass or gravel, instead of concrete or asphalt.
- ◆ Always empty wash buckets into sinks or toilets, not into the storm drain.



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