

THE TIMBERS

PROTECT OUR WATER: ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN



Storm drain markers on drains across Fairfax County tell us that anything washed or dumped down a storm drain goes directly into our streams, not to a water treatment plant. Our nearest stream, Pohick Creek, leads to the Potomac River, a source of drinking water and recreation.

Don't let pollutants from these sources go down the drain. Prevention is easy!

- **Sediment:** Bare soil, sand.
 - Grow native plants and use mulch on bare soil.
- **Nutrients:** Fertilizer, yard debris.
 - Limit fertilizer use, compost or bag yard debris, practice bay-friendly yard care.
- **Toxics:** Pesticides, motor oil, lead-based paint, salt.
 - Keep suds from car washing out of the storm drain – they can be toxic to wildlife.
 - Use pesticides only when necessary and sweep up excess.
 - Dispose of motor oil, lead-based paint and pesticides as household hazardous waste. One gallon of oil can pollute two million gallons of water.
- **Pathogens:** Animal or human waste.
 - Scoop the poop! Keep bacteria from dog waste out of waterways.
- **Litter:** Plastic, cigarettes, styrofoam, cans.
 - Put litter in the recycling or trash.

Prevent and report storm drain dumping. If you see hazardous wastes like paint, pesticides, or motor oil dumped in storm drains, report it to Fairfax County at 703-691-2131, TTY 711.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain! Make sure that nothing other than water ever goes down your storm drain. Help keep water safe for children and future generations.

Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd>

(703) 324-1460, TTY 711

