



Ever wonder where those storm water drains along the side of the road lead to? They all flush out into open surface water, to our lakes and rivers and streams. Storm water is rain or snow melt that does not soak into the ground or evaporate, it is not sewage and therefore it is not treated as waste water in a treatment plant. Storm water runs off roads, yards, roofs and down gutters, travels into drains along the curb, and drains to creeks, rivers, ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Storm water carries oils and spills from cars, fertilizers and pesticides from your lawn, and of course litter. Here are a few things that you can do to prevent stormwater pollution in your neighborhood:

1. Do not dump into a curb side stormdrain or into a drainage ditch.
2. Keep litter out of streets and drains.
3. Clean up after your pet.
4. Sweep lawn chemicals back into your lawn and off sidewalks and driveways.
5. Compost your yard waste.
6. Consider non-toxic pesticide alternatives.
7. Direct gutter downspouts away from paved surfaces.
8. Check cars for leaks and recycle motor oil.
9. Inspect and pump your septic tank regularly.

To learn more about what you can do in your community to prevent stormwater pollution contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County at 845-429-7085. This message was brought to you by Cornell Cooperative Extension with the support of the Rockland County Stormwater Consortium.