



How do Storm Drains Work?

The storm drainage system helps prevent floods by diverting rainwater into nearby waterways. During rainstorms, water runs off of buildings, roads, and other hard surfaces, picking up trash and pollutants along the way. The water and pollutants flow into storm drains and through underground pipes directly into the nearest stream, pond or water reservoir.

What About the Drains in My House?

The drains in your house are part of a different system, the wastewater system. Dirty water from inside your home flows into underground pipes that are connected to a wastewater treatment plant. The water from your home is cleaned before it is released back into creeks and streams.

Stormwater is Not Treated?

That's right! The storm drainage system carries rainwater directly to creeks, streams, ponds and reservoirs. That is why it's important to keep trash, motor oil, pesticides, and other chemicals from entering the storm drain - everything that goes in comes out in our waterways. Polluted water is harmful to fish, wildlife, and humans.

Stormwater Provides Drinking Water to Us and Others Downstream

- Never pour or dump anything down a storm drain
- Keep streets clean
- Dispose of trash properly
- Rake leaves and debris away from storm drains
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions
- Call Wilmington's Wastewater Treatment Plant (below) to report pollution problems

All Water is Recycled

The same water that existed on earth in the beginning is still here. It continually moves around, through and above our planet as water vapor, liquid, and ice. The water that comes from our faucets may have been drinking water for the first man and woman.

As our population increases, so do demands on our limited water resources. Household products such as pesticides, fertilizers, fuels, and cleaning products can contaminate our water when they are not handled and stored properly. These pollutants are swept into the storm drainage system as rainwater flows across rooftops, lawns, streets and parking lots.

It is difficult and expensive to remove pollutants from our water supply. The best way to protect this resource is to keep pollutants out.

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