

What is stormwater?

Rain or snow that hits the ground, it can pick up dirt, chemicals, and other pollutants and carry them downstream from your sidewalks, streets, and alleys to bodies of water in your community. Rain is great for growing things in the city, but excess rain can run off from roofs, pavement, and other hard surfaces into the street, where it flows from the storm drain into local rivers, lakes, or streams, taking pollution from those surfaces with it.

Here are just a few steps you can take to be stormwater smart, starting in your own neighborhood:

On the Curb



- If you park your car on the street, check for spots underneath it, which could be a sign of leaky oil or other fluids that can contaminate stormwater as it washes by. Don't let your leak pollute.

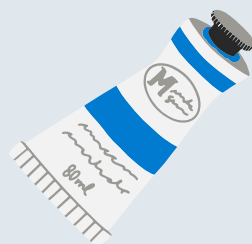
- Street sweeping is an important part of stormwater management; during posted sweeping hours, don't park your car on the street.

In the alley

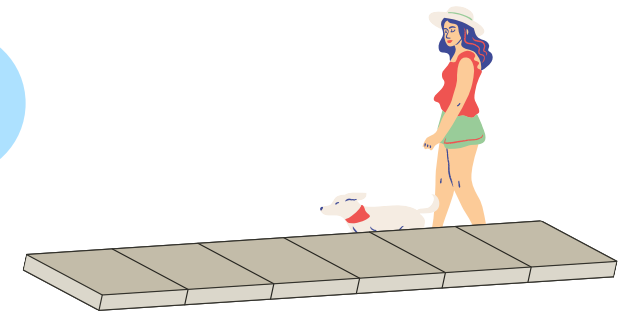
- Keep garbage cans covered to keep trash from blowing and avoid rainwater getting contaminated by your trash. Never dump garbage in alleys or gutters.



- Read the label to dispose of household chemicals and paints properly, and never dump them in the alley, on the sidewalk, or in the street.



On the sidewalk



- Keep raked leaves or yard clippings out of the storm drain to avoid clogs and debris that can reach waterways.



- Don't hose down sidewalks; that will flush dirt down through the storm drain system!
- During colder weather, avoid oversalting the sidewalk or use "green" deicer—a little goes a long way!

In the park

- Never drop cigarette butts on the ground; put out cigarettes and drop the butts in a proper receptacle or trash can.

- Always pick up after your dog by putting waste in a bag and disposing it in an appropriate waste container, rather than dropping it in the storm drain.



- Always put trash in its place and keep it away from storm drains.

Next Steps:

You can support stormwater management projects in your city that both benefit the environment and bring value to the community. Local schools, parks, and public and private institutions can do a lot to reduce the impact from rainfall on rivers, lakes, and streams:

- Rain gardens and bioretention areas absorb rain before it runs into the street.

The City of Newark recently installed bioretention areas on the square to help reduce stormwater pollution.



Whether you're enjoying a park or at the waterfront, do your part! Put litter in trash cans, and never dump liquids down storm drains. We can all be stormwater smart!

More Information

Contact Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District
 (740) 670- 5330 or
LickingSWCD.com



*Information provided in part by: EPA
 Stormwater Smart Brochure: Urban Steps*

BE STORMWATER SMART

Take Steps to Protect Our Waterways

