

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 your lawn, but excess rain can run off from your yard and walkways 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 home:

In the garden

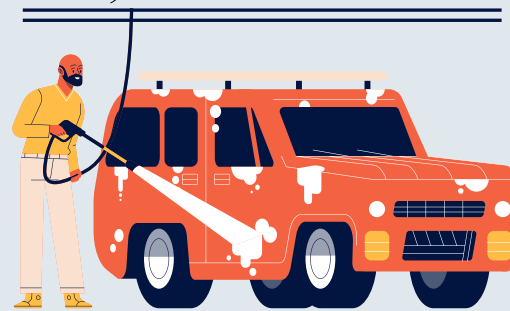


- Apply fertilizers and pesticides carefully on your lawn or garden and not on the pavement.
- Avoid using fertilizers and pesticides completely if rain is in the forecast.

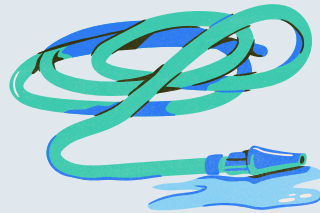
- Consider installing a rain garden, which is a depressed area planted with grasses or perennials that collects stormwater.

In the Driveway

- Wash your car with biodegradable soap to avoid chemicals floating downstream, or visit a carwash.



- Direct water from downspouts and car washing to grassy areas, so it can soak into the ground rather than hit the pavement.
- Don't hose down your driveway and flush dirt down the storm drain.



- Look for spots on the ground that indicate your car leaks oil or fluid. Don't let your leaks pollute!



In the Yard

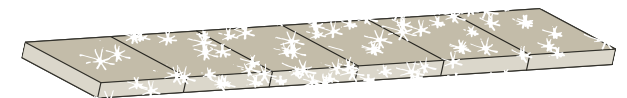
- Use permeable pavers instead of hard stones or pavement in your yard to help water absorb into the ground.



- Don't rake leaves or yard clippings into the storm drain to avoid clogs and debris that could cause flooding.
- Install a rain barrel to help prevent rain from flowing into storm drains. (and save water for dry spells!)

On the sidewalk

- During colder weather, avoid oversalting the sidewalk or use "green" deicer—a little goes a long way!



- 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.



- Sweep sidewalks and put the debris in the trash

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.

You can install a rain barrel at your house! Soil & Water offers a workshop to learn about rain barrels and installation.



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: Suburban Steps*

BE STORMWATER SMART

Take Steps to Protect Our Waterways

