



POINT & NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION









POINT SOURCE POLLUTION
Any pollutant that enters into rivers and streams from an easily identifiable source.



NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION (RUNOFF)
A combination of pollutants which enters into rivers and streams, where the source cannot be identified, usually from a large area.

As we develop our cities and towns, we replace forests and meadows with buildings and pavement. And now when it rains, the water (often called runoff or stormwater) runs off roofs and driveways into the street. Runoff picks up fertilizer, oil, pesticides, dirt, bacteria and other pollutants as it makes its way through storm drains and ditches - untreated - to our streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean. Water pollutants are categorized by point source and non-point source pollution.

EXAMPLES OF RUNOFF POLLUTANTS FROM OUR DAILY LIVES

-  Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) from manure and other lawn and crop fertilizers
-  Sediment (eroded dirt)
-  Vehicle fluids and other toxic contaminants
-  Chemicals like herbicides and pesticides
-  Viruses and bacteria from pet waste or faulty septic systems
-  Plastics and other litter

5 WAYS TO PREVENT POLLUTION

- Keep litter, pet waste, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals properly—not in storm sewers or drains.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- Maintain your vehicle.
- Maintain your septic system.

NUTRIENTS
Nitrogen and phosphorus from animal manure, fertilizers, pesticides and wastewater treatment plant discharges are problems. As nutrients enter our rivers and streams, algae feeds on them and grows excessively, taking the oxygen in the water that fish and aquatic life needs to survive.

SEDIMENT
Sediment can be caused by stormwater runoff or by erosion carving out the banks of streams and rivers, which makes them steeper and more prone to flooding. More flooding causes more erosion and creates a loop of environmental degradation. Insects that live in these waterways are destroyed by the sediment that buries the nooks where they live, causing fish to lose these insects as food sources.