

## Stormwater

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation flows over the ground to a lake, stream, or river. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, and buildings prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Foreign substances, such as debris and chemicals are dissolved in water at the surface and transported with stormwater into streams, rivers, and other water bodies, causing pollution.

Any debris or chemicals left outdoors and exposed to stormwater has the potential to pollute it. The following are examples of potential sources of stormwater pollution in your community and work area:

- Uncovered or leaking dumpsters can allow chemicals and wastes to enter stormwater. Keep dumpsters closed!
- Lawn chemicals can add fertilizers and herbicides to stormwater.
- Oil deposited on pavement can be washed into stormwater.
- Spilled salt and deicing chemicals can travel through roadside ditches to streams and rivers.



Once pollution reaches water bodies, it can poison fish, damage ecosystems, and even end up in water used for drinking or recreation.

## For More Information or to Report a Concern, Contact the local MS4

Visit the Morgan County Partnership  
for Water Quality at  
<https://mcpwq.org/>

For Morgan County, visit:  
<https://morgancounty.in.gov/>

For Brooklyn, visit the Town Hall at  
10 East Mill Street or call  
(317) 831-3343

For Martinsville, visit:  
<https://martinsville.in.gov/>

For Mooresville, visit:  
[https://www.mooresville.in.gov/storm  
water-department/](https://www.mooresville.in.gov/storm-water-department/)

For Tri-County Conservancy District,  
visit:  
<http://tricountyconservancy-in.gov>

*Prepared by*

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ENGINEERING

## Keeping Parking Lots Clean



Businesses and construction sites are required to comply with stormwater quality requirements. This includes maintaining dumpsters and keeping clean parking lots clean.

Uncovered or overfilled dumpsters can collect rainwater, which makes it more difficult to keep pollutants from leaching out of the dumpster. Uncovered dumpsters are also a source of windblown litter.

Dumpsters that are not maintained may be corroded and more likely to leak.

The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality is a group of five Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities working together to meet and exceed our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit. Our mission is to bring stormwater pollution awareness, preventions and solutions for the residents of Morgan County through public education and community involvement.

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our ditches, creeks, and rivers. Stormwater often contains pollutants, including litter, automobile fluids, and other chemicals. These substances pollute our waterbodies and harm fish and wildlife. Pollution also causes expensive maintenance issues for the town and for businesses that maintain private storm sewers, ponds, and other stormwater facilities.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using Best Management Practices (BMPs) as part of your daily clean up and maintenance routine.

Properly addressing litter and trash dumpsters are an important part of maintaining your property and helping keep our waterways clean.

## Manage Litter

- Sweep up trash can and dumpster areas frequently.
- Keep parking lot and trash receptacle areas clean. An area that's kept neat and clean encourages others to properly dispose of trash.
- Provide sufficient trash receptacles at your business and ensure they are emptied frequently.
- Clean out drainage systems often. This way they cannot collect debris that will flush into local waterways.
- Maintain a litter pick up and/or parking lot sweeping program.

## Maintain Dumpsters

- Keep trash can and dumpster lids closed to keep rain water and wildlife out.
- Prevent leaks and spills by routinely checking dumpsters for holes or cracks. Call your trash disposal leasing company to replace leaking dumpsters.
- Use trash can liners to prevent the need for washing the can.
- Keep trash cans and dumpsters away from storm drain inlets.
- Never place liquids or leaky garbage bags into a trash can or dumpster.
- Train employees to properly address dumpster and litter issues.

