

# 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.



The following are examples of potential sources of stormwater pollution in your community.

- Excess fertilizers and herbicides can run off lawn into stormwater.
- Oil stains on your driveway can be washed into stormwater.
- Yard wastes cause clogs and contribute excessive nutrients.
- Chemicals left outdoors have the potential to pollute stormwater.

## Additional Information is available at the following locations:

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.mooreville.in.gov/stormwater-department/>

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

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## Yard Waste: A Stormwater Pollutant



Image courtesy of Alachua County, FL

# KEEP GRASS CLIPPINGS OFF THE STREETS!



Clippings act as a natural mulch which helps conserve soil moisture (and your wallet) preventing your lawn from drought and stress.



Keeping grass clippings in your lawn recycles nutrients your lawn needs to stay healthy.

## Sweeping or blowing your clippings in to the street or storm drain can cause...



**BACTERIA GROWTH** in creeks and streams



**FINES** — It is illegal to allow clippings into the stormwater system



**CLOGS** which may lead to **FLOODING**.



Grass can cause motorcycles to lose traction and cause **ACCIDENTS**



**PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER** runoff can lead to algae blooms and limit recreation in waterways

## Why is Yard Waste Bad for Storm Drains?

Blowing grass clippings into the street every now and then may not seem like a big deal, but as it continues to occur, the materials can build up in storm drains. This causes negative impacts in the community, such as:

- Clogged drains which lead to flooding of streets, homes, and businesses.
- Large expenses to clear storm drains.
- Harm towards plants and animals.
- Contamination of local streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Excess nutrients in water sources which leads to algae blooms.

Disposal options for yard waste:

- Check for local disposal opportunities.
- Use the mulch setting on your lawn mower instead of bagging grass clippings.
- Compost yard waste and use it to supply nutrients to your garden.
- Turn branches, leaves, and pine needles into mulch.

## How is it Illegal?

An illicit discharge is considered any discharge to a conveyance that is not composed entirely of stormwater. This includes yard waste which may consist of weeds, leaves, grass clippings, excess pesticide and fertilizers, dirt, and dead flowers. These objects can be carried away by stormwater.

During drainage system inspections, if an illicit discharge or connection is detected in the system, the person guilty of the discharge may end up under enforcement. Refer to your community's Illicit Discharge Ordinance for more information.

