



Top 10 Things YOU Can Do to Reduce Storm Water Pollution in Georgetown ...

YOU and your family can help reduce storm water pollution in Georgetown's streams, ponds, and wetlands by making simple changes to your daily life. Consider doing some — or all — of these things. They really add up to make a difference!

1. **Properly maintain your car or truck.** Never dump any automotive products down a storm drain. Always recycle used oil, antifreeze, and other fluids. Promptly fix oil leaks in your vehicle.
2. **Wash your car at a commercial car wash rather than in the street or your driveway.** If you must wash your car or truck at home, wash it on your lawn where the grass can help filter out pollutants.
3. **Drive less.** Leave your car at home at least one day each week and take a train, bus, carpool, or bike to work. Combine errands when you drive. Get vehicle emissions checked and repaired. Buy a low emission vehicle.
4. **Dispose of Hazardous Household Products Safely.** Bring your unwanted oil-based paints, solvents, cleaning agents, wood stains, and other potentially harmful household products to a community-sponsored Hazardous Waste Collection Day for safe recycling and disposal.
5. **Cut down on fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.** If you use these chemicals, follow directions carefully and use them sparingly. Don't fertilize before a rainstorm. Consider using organic fertilizers. Let your lawn go golden brown in the dry summer months; it will rebound in the fall. Compost or mulch lawn clippings. Preserve existing trees or plant new ones - trees hold rainfall and help manage stormwater.
6. **Remove part or all of your lawn.** Lawns require a lot of watering, mowing, and care. Replace part of your lawn with native, drought-resistant plants. Add compost to the soil and cover it with mulch to improve plant growth and reduce stormwater runoff.
7. **Maintain your septic system.** Septic systems require regular inspections, maintenance, and pumping or they will fail, costing you a lot of money to fix and resulting in the pollution of nearby streams and ponds. Have a licensed septic inspector check your septic system regularly and have it pumped out when needed.
8. **Pick up after your pets and keep animals out of streams.** Scoop up your dog's poop and properly dispose of it. Also, make sure fences and other structures are keeping horses and livestock out of streams and wetland areas. Compost manure in a designated area so that it doesn't wash off into nearby waterways.
9. **Reduce impervious surfaces and increase the vegetated land cover of your property.** Impervious surfaces include your roof, driveway, patios, and lawn. Reduce rooftop runoff by directing your down spouts to vegetated areas or to a rain barrel, **not** to the storm drain on your street. For your driveway and patio, consider putting in permeable pavement, cobble stone, or brick that allow water to filter through.
10. **Support your local Storm Water Management Program.** Georgetown's program to properly maintain the town's stormwater system, prevent flooding, and protect our natural resources costs money in the short run, but it will help avoid costly pollution and damage to public and private property in the long run. Take advantage of opportunities to educate yourself and your family about our local water resources and how to protect them. Consider volunteering for stream & pond cleanups or other local volunteer improvement projects.