

Help Stop Polluted Runoff



Pollution

*Stormwater Pollution
Prevention Program*

Water is essential for life and plays a vital role in the proper functioning of the Earth's ecosystems. The pollution of water has a serious impact on all living creatures, and can negatively affect the use of water for drinking, household needs, recreation, fishing, transportation and commerce.

What you don't know *can* hurt the environment. When rain falls or snow melts, the seemingly negligible amounts of chemicals and other pollutants around your home and premises get picked up and carried via storm drains to surface waters such as lakes, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. The ramifications include polluted drinking water, beach closings, and endangered wildlife.

How You Can Help

Many people overlook one major source of water contaminants: individual households. The small amounts of cleaners, solvents, motor oil, and other toxic materials dumped down the drain or onto the lawn or driveway of a single household may seem insignificant. When thousands or millions of households release toxic substances in this way, however, the effect is substantial. The contaminants flow into sewage treatment plants, which are not designed to remove chemicals. Thus, the contaminants enter the water cycle and may end up in sediments.

You can help by recycling motor oil, and by responsibly disposing of paint cans, household chemical containers, and insecticides.

Many towns and counties sponsor hazardous waste disposal centers. Please use them.

Do's & Don'ts

Do sweep paved areas. Don't hose down sidewalks or driveways.

Do drain gutters & downspouts onto vegetated surfaces or splash blocks. Don't drain on paved surfaces.

Do compost grass clippings and leaves. Don't wash them into the roadway.

Do wash your car over gravel or grass. Don't wash on the driveway where the water will run into the street.

Do allow vegetation to grow along waterways to slow runoff and soak up pollutants. Plant trees, shrubs, and groundcover. They will absorb up to 14 times more rainwater than a grass lawn.

Do dispose of household hazardous wastes properly. Don't pour hazardous products down any drain or toilet, and don't discard with regular household trash.

Do place litter in trash receptacles. Don't throw litter in the streets or down storm drains.

Do recycle all used motor oil. Don't dump used oil on the ground or down storm drains.

Do use natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides whenever possible.

Do get involved in the planning and zoning process in your community. That's where the decisions are made that shape the course of development and the future quality of our environment.

DID YOU KNOW...

**Most Americans
(218 million) live
within 10 miles
of a polluted
lake, river,
stream, or
coastal area!***

*taken from US EPA website

Wood Waste

Wood waste at the City of Minot Landfill has been accumulating more and more each year. All citizens of Minot are highly encouraged to utilize as much wood product/trees as possible before being placed on the curb for disposal.

Firewood is “FREE” for all citizens of the city proper and is to be found at the “City Landfill” during normal operating hours. Firewood must be cut and loaded by you the citizen (City of Minot is not liable for accidents). Please stop at the scale house for directions to and from this area. Encourage your neighbors to follow suit as there are programs and projects by both the state and federal government to reduce wood waste from entering our landfills. The reduction of wood waste being landfilled and being put to good use is the goal.

Free woodchips are also available for personal use. For the many uses of this material simply google/search “Woodchips.”



Benefits of Mulching With Wood Chips

- Saves labor—no weeding, less time watering
- Saves water—far less watering needed, more rain absorption
- Safer—no need for chemical weed killers or herbicides
- Stimulates growth—mulched trees grow faster than unmulched
- Makes trees more resistant to disease and insects
- Keeps soil and roots from overheating in hot summers
- Eliminates injury to trunk from mower collisions
- Reduces soil compaction over roots and adds loft
- Nourishes the soil by adding nutrients as it decomposes
- Eliminates the need for tilling and resultant root injury.
- Reduces bruising of fallen fruit under fruit trees

