

WHAT IS A STORM DRAIN?

Storm drains are rectangular or round grates that are placed in the street, normally near the edge or curb. Rain, snowmelt, or water from our sprinklers carry pollutants as it flows down our driveways and streets into these grates.

Unlike the water that goes down your sink or bathtub drain to the sewer, water that flows into County storm drains IS NOT treated or filtered for pollutants.

The polluted stormwater is simply infiltrated into the ground where it can recharge our aquifer. Letting anything other than clean water reach a storm drain is just like contaminating your own drinking water source, so please don't pour anything down our storm drains!



EXAMPLE OF A STORM-DRAIN GRATE

SPOKANE COUNTY



Spokane County Stormwater Utility

1026 West Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260-7284

www.spokanecounty.org

Phone: 509-477-3600
Fax: 509-477-7655

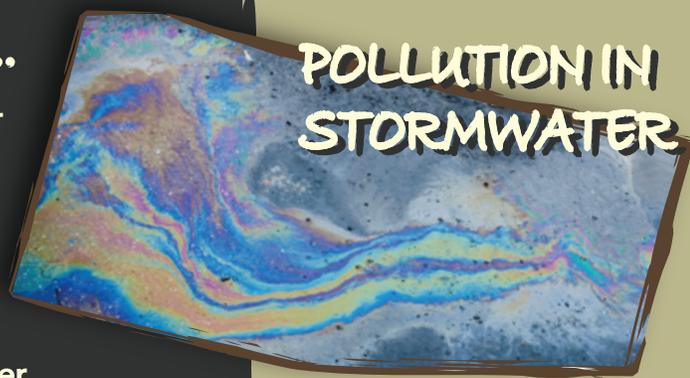
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
STORM DRAINS, DRYWELLS, OR
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
IN SPOKANE COUNTY,
CONTACT:

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO STORM DRAINS AND DRYWELLS

STORM

STORMWATER VS. WASTEWATER ...

In Spokane County, wastewater collection and stormwater systems are separate. Wastewater is the used water that drains from our toilets, sinks, bathtubs, and dishwashers. The wastewater travels through sewer pipes to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated to strict quality standards before it is released into the Spokane River.



POLLUTION IN STORMWATER

As stormwater flows over the ground, it picks up and carries natural and human-made pollutants.

These pollutants include:

- INSECTICIDES
- Fertilizers
- Herbicides



- Motor oil
- GREASE
- Soap
- PAINT



- Leaves
- Yard Waste
- Grass Clippings



- Pool chemicals
- PET WASTE



- DIRT
- Sand
- SOIL

Water that goes into the stormwater system DOES NOT go to a treatment facility. The rainwater, snowmelt, or water from our sprinklers travels down our driveways and off our sidewalks to a storm drain, then to and through an underground pipe system where it empties into a drywell.

The drywell chamber will store stormwater until it infiltrates into the surrounding soil.



SO, WHERE ARE THESE DRYWELLS?

LOOK FOR A METAL LID IN THE ROAD THAT SAYS:

STORM

THERE'S PROBABLY A DRYWELL RIGHT UNDERNEATH!

PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

You can help prevent pollution from getting into storm drains! Some DOs and DON'Ts...

- DO**
- Wash your car on the lawn
 - Use a broom to sweep up dirt and debris
 - Compost leaves and grass clippings



DON'T

- Wash your car on the driveway or in the street
- Place leaves and grass clippings in street gutters or storm drains
- Apply lawn chemicals before a rain event
- Powerwash dirt, spills, or leaks into the street