



August is Water Quality Month and we at the Stormwater Division want to share tips and information about water quality. You can make a difference. Check out these five ways you can improve water quality in our community.

1. **Watch out for your storm drain before heavy yard work.**

Anything that goes down the storm drain will end up in our waters. While grass and sediment may not seem like dangerous contaminants, they pose a real threat to our water quality. Before doing yard work, make note of all nearby storm drains. Keep your fertilizer and grass clippings contained to your site, and bag up what's remaining to compost or dispose of properly.

2. **Pick up after your pets.**

The number one stormwater contaminant is fecal matter. Rain water that washes over pet waste on the ground picks up contaminants, which then go down the storm drain and into the ocean.

3. **Watch how you wash your car.**

When you wash your car in the driveway, all that soapy water goes right down the storm drain. Luckily, there are three solutions. You can use a biodegradable soap that is phosphate free and won't contaminate the water. You can also wash your car in the grass rather than the driveway. The grass will absorb the runoff; what it doesn't absorb, it will act as a natural filter for the water. Or you can always take your car to a professional service. They will properly dispose of the runoff water.

4. **Check your plumbing system.**

If you have a septic tank, your entire house should be plumbed through the septic tank. If you notice any deficiencies in your system, it may be time to have a professional take a look. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for grey water, like the water generated from washing machines, dishwashers, or showers, to be dumped into a yard or storm drain.

5. **Share this with others!**

Questions? Email stormwater@charlestoncounty.org.

#WaterQualityMonth