

Other Ways To Help

PROJECT IMPACT is a program working to reduce the severity of and the costs associated with flooding and other hazardous events. Through proactive prevention, partnerships between local governments, businesses and residents help to make this happen by developing projects to assist communities preparing for these hazard events.

The *Project Impact Drainage Awareness Program* is one way YOU can directly reduce the likelihood of flooding in your neighborhood and protect your waterways from pollution. Elements of this program include:



Storm Drain Marker Project - contact the Charleston Area **Project Impact** office at (843) 202-6940 or SCDHEC Trident District Office at (843) 740-1590 for information and materials to mark storm drains to alert people not to use them as dumps.



Reporting Abuses - use the **Litter Watch Hotline**, (843) 720-7111, to report littering or dumping in drainage ways, or call the **local DHEC office**, (843) 740-1590 to report dumping into storm drains. Both of these activities are illegal and offenders can be prosecuted and fined! Or, organize and participate in litter watch and storm drain monitoring programs.

Learn More About It

Education - representatives from Project Impact, SCDHEC and the Charleston County Litter Enforcement staff are available to speak to groups or neighborhood associations. Give them a call to learn more about these programs.

Involvement - get involved in your neighborhood and the community. Set a good example by letting just the rain go down the storm drain

Learn more about it. The EPA website, www.epa.gov is full of information on Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution. And, check www.scdhec.net for resources on water quality, solid waste and litter.

Don't Dump Here...



It Ends Up Here!

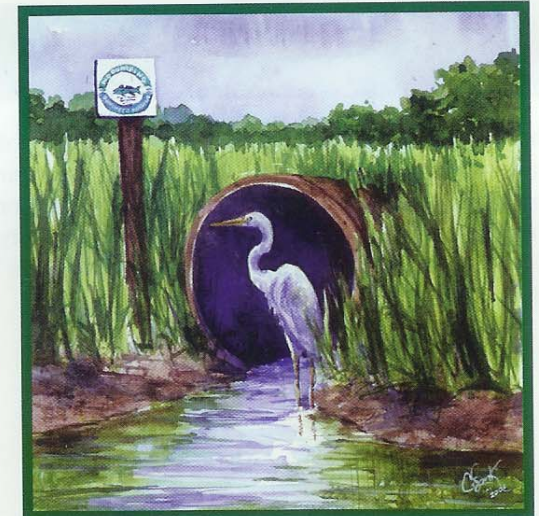


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*Designed by Charleston County Solid Waste on recycled paper, of course!
Special thanks to Charlynn J.M. Knight from Knight Gallery (843) 723-0140*

Just Let Rain Go Down The Drain...



CHARLESTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE

13 Romney Street
Charleston, SC 29403-3844
(843) 720-7111
www.charlestoncounty.org

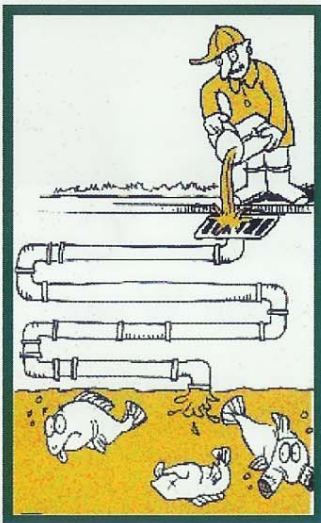
What's A Storm Drain?



It's the grate or opening next to the curb or sidewalk in to which all the water drains after a storm. In some suburban areas or rural settings, the storm drain system may include open ditches that channel water into waterways, creeks and rivers.

Where Do They Go?

The water entering these systems flows to a body of water such as a river, lake or harbor, or even our beautiful marshes. The storm water is not treated or screened in any way before it is released into the body of water. So, whatever goes 'down the storm drain' goes directly into Lowcountry waters.



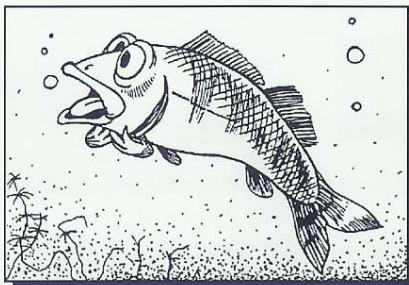
So What's the Problem?

Sometimes storm drains and ditches are carelessly used as dumps or sewers. When we put our trash into our storm drains, we can clog up the drainage system. The next time it rains the water has no place to go, causing flooding of our roads, neighborhoods and homes. Equally serious is the pollution caused by pouring oil, paint or other liquid wastes into the storm drains. Used oil from a single oil change can pollute up to one million gallons of fresh water.



Is This Really A Bad Thing?

YES! The Lowcountry already is affected by tidal influences that can slow storm water drainage. Clogging up the system with leaves, yard waste or litter can lead to serious flooding and erosion. Storm drain cleaning and improvement projects are expensive. Pollution impacts the numbers and health of fish and wildlife, and causes loss of wildlife habitat. Toxins, bacteria and viruses from illegal dumping into storm water can lead to health risks caused by eating contaminated fish or swimming in contaminated waters. Fertilizers and pet wastes getting into storm water change the nutrient levels in our waterways, which can lead to the introduction of invasive species of plants or insects. Any degree of system abuse leads to a decline in quality of life and water, and harm to the ecosystem.



What's The Solution?

- Dispose of used oil at your nearest GOFER (Give Oil For Energy Recovery) collection tank. They're everywhere! Call the Charleston County Recycling Center at (843) 720-7111 for a location nearest you.
- Properly dispose of antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals; **do not** put them in storm drains or ditches. Charleston County residents can take household hazardous materials to the Household Hazardous Materials dropsite at Bees Ferry Landfill, 1344 Bees Ferry Road.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. **Do not** hose them into the street. An absorbent material like kitty litter soaks up spills, and can be thrown into the trash.
- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains. **NEVER** sweep yard clippings down the storm drain.
- Clean up after your pets. Pet waste can be bagged and put in your trash, flushed down the toilet (but **NOT** with kitty litter), or buried at least five inches deep in your garden.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions. Call the Clemson University Extension Service for advice, (843) 722-5940. Don't apply chemical before a heavy rainfall. Sweep, don't wash, excess off paved surfaces.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- Water your lawn and garden only when necessary, and then use slow soak methods such as drip irrigation or soaker hoses to reduce runoff.
- Backwashing and draining swimming pools must be done carefully to prevent water pollution and flooding. Keeping the chlorine residual to an almost non-detectable presence prior to discharging is important to protect water quality. Any solid material should be removed prior to discharge.
- Before washing your car, pull it up on the lawn or gravel area to reduce runoff. Use a bucket of water or pistol grip nozzle. The best practice is to go to a commercial car wash, where excess water is properly treated.