

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!

It's simple and easy to help keep our water clean and clear. Not only for our health but for the health of wildlife.

Why should you care?

Did you know that the water that goes down a storm drain goes into your local lakes, streams, ponds, rivers and creeks? What goes down a drain, effects the life of humans and animals.



City of *Kendallville*

Water Pollution Control

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Pollution Solution Starts with YOU!



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What is Storm Water Pollution?

When it rains, some of the rainwater soaks into the ground, and part of it flows over the ground and directly into creeks, streams or rivers. This water that runs off into the river is called runoff, or sometimes stormwater runoff. Clever, huh? Sometimes this stormwater runoff gets polluted. Pollution is anything that harms natural resources, whether it is air, soil, or in this case, water.

Sometimes the pollution is something you can see, like trash floating on top of the water. Other times you can't see the pollution at all, like when motor oil from a car washes into a nearby creek. Polluted runoff is the number one cause of water pollution in the United States. So, who is to blame? Who is making the water that we drink and swim in dirty? We all are... take a look.

What causes Pollution?

Many things cause stormwater pollution. Here are just a few examples:

LAWN CLIPPINGS- Another thing to think about is the grass clippings left after you or your parents mow the lawn. What gets done with the leaves you rake? Putting grass clippings, leaves, and yard debris in the street, storm drain, or ditch can cause problems for you and your water. Storm drains can clog, streets can flood, and water can become polluted. To avoid this, use clippings as fertilizer, use a mulching lawn mower, compost leaves and clippings, or bag them for yard waste collection day.

DOG POOP- WHAT? Yes, let's talk about dog poop. What do you think happens to all of the dog waste our pets leave behind? Right... down the storm drain and into the water! When you think about how many people own dogs, this can really build up! Did you know dog waste contains bacteria that can harm people? These bacteria end up in the water that we drink when people don't pick up after dogs. Don't worry! Nobody has to give up his or her pooch! Pet owners can improve water quality by picking up after their pets and throwing their pet's waste into a trashcan.

LITTER- Do you ever see people throw trash out of cars or on the ground? You surely don't do that, DO YOU?! Litter on the street washes into storm drains and ditches, then ends up in creeks, rivers, and lakes. It harms water quality and wildlife. A tiny cigarette butt can take 25 years to break down! So, don't litter, and tell others to keep their butts in the car!

Washing the car

Have you ever washed your parents' car? It's fun, and you can soak your friends with the hose! If you wash the car in the driveway, all of the soap, scum, and oily grit run down into the storm drain. Did you know the storm drains on your street and in your neighborhood carry rainwater away from your house, apartment building, or yard directly into the streams and rivers near you? If you live in the country, water from your yard may go into a ditch and then flow to streams and rivers. If you live near the coast, it may go straight to the ocean. It is not cleaned or treated along the way, so anything that goes to the storm drain or ditch goes into the water. Soap and oily grit aren't good for the animals in the river, and they aren't good for us when we use the river water for swimming or drinking.

