

Do Your Landscape Practices Help Prevent Soil Erosion?

- Soil washed away by rain can pollute streams and lakes.



- Remember, the storm drain system is a direct path to nearby streams and lakes.
- Protect soil by planting groundcover vegetation or by using mulch.
- Gardens and construction sites with areas of bare soil, especially on sloped land, are prone to erosion.



PLEASE CONTACT

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Storm Water Runoff



URBAN STORM WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sponsored By:

**Jefferson County
The City of Pine Bluff
The City of White Hall
The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
The Jefferson County Cooperative
Extension Service**

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative Extension Service

University of Arkansas, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and
County Governments Cooperating

What Is the Urban Storm Water Education Program?

The Clean Water Act was passed to protect the quality of surface waters in the United States. In order to preserve, protect and improve our water resources from polluted storm water runoff, designated cities and counties that have “urbanized areas” must implement control measures. These control measures include:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation and Involvement
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Runoff Control
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

The cities of Pine Bluff and White Hall, along with Jefferson County, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service in Jefferson County, have formed a partnership to carry out the first three of these control measures.

What Is Storm Water?

It is runoff from natural precipitation, such as rain events, snow melt and other surface runoff and drainage.



Why Is It a Problem?

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system and directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterways we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

What Are the Effects of Storm Water Pollution?

Polluted storm water runoff can have adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

- **Sediment** clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow and can destroy aquatic habitats.
- **Excess nutrients** cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- **Bacteria and pathogens** wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- **Debris** – plastic bags, cans, bottles, and cigarette butts – washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.
- **Household hazardous wastes** like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents and used motor oil can poison aquatic life.
- **Polluted storm water** can affect drinking water sources.

What Can You Do?



The average homeowner uses 10 times more chemical fertilizers and pesticides per acre than farmers.

The following are ways that you as the concerned citizen can assist in preventing and minimizing the effects of storm water on the environment.

Apply Fertilizer Wisely

- Apply at the right time and in the right amounts.
- Too much nitrogen (N) can cause excessive growth and increase maintenance.
- Fertilizer with slow release nitrogen is better for the environment.
- Get a soil test to see what your soil needs – free through the County Extension Office.
- If more fertilizer is applied than the grass can utilize, it can wash into nearby streams and lakes.

Apply Pesticides Wisely

- Do your homework before using pesticides.
- Identify the pest, disease or cause of the problem.
- Learn when and where pesticides are needed.
- Apply pesticides only where pests occur.
- Select chemicals that are the least toxic or that break down quickly.
- Always READ the label before mixing and applying pesticides.