

Stormwater

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Being proactive regarding fertilizer use, landscaping maintenance and pet waste management will have a positive impact on improving the water quality in our streams.



SCOOP THE POOP, PROTECT THE WATER



1.4M

Dogs in Colorado

Each dog generates about

12 oz.

of waste per day

That's **274 lbs.**

of waste per year

Equalling a Colorado total of

390M lbs.

pounds per year...



... equivalent to

4,126

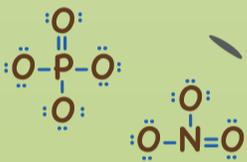
dumptrucks' worth!



390M Pounds!

If dog owners don't clean up after their pooches, that **390 million pounds** of poop can wash into your waterways every year!

WHY DOES IT MATTER?



Dog waste contains 10% phosphates and 2% nitrates.

**39M
8M**

Just in Colorado, that's 39 million pounds of phosphates and 8 million pounds of nitrogen generated by dog poop every year.



These nutrients contribute to algae growth, causing low oxygen in the water that can kill fish and other aquatic life.



Rain and snowmelt washes dog waste into our storm drains that connect to rivers and lakes without treatment where it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds...



... making the water murky, green, smelly and even unusable for swimming, boating or fishing.

PLUS

Dog waste can spread pathogens that can be transmitted from pets to humans, including salmonella, giardia, parvovirus among others.



AND...



Parasite eggs dispersed by poop can survive for years in outdoor areas.

WHAT YOU CAN DOO



Pick it Up

Carry extra pet waste bags on every walk



Pitch It

Make sure to put the bags in a garbage can



Pay a Scooper

There are several local and affordable pooper scooper businesses available online



SPLASH
STORMWATER PERMITTEES FOR LOCAL AWARENESS OF STREAM HEALTH
WWW.SPLASHCO.ORG





Fertilizer: arch enemy of waterways.

Streams, lakes and reservoirs don't need it. Your lawn may not need it, either. Fertilizer, like other products that serve a necessary purpose, can become a problem if misused. Most lawn fertilizers contain nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, represented by a three-number string on the front of the bag. Nutrient needs vary from lawn to lawn and can only be determined by testing the soil. If over-applied, rain carries away excess nutrients not needed by plants and washes them to the nearest waterway, causing excess algae growth that uses up vital oxygen for fish.

Please take the time to have your soil tested to determine your lawn's needs. This simple, small change in your lawn care makes a huge difference, not only to the health of your lawn but also to your nearby rivers, creeks and lakes.

Local stormwater agencies are teaming together to bring you this message. We take this so seriously that we posted this ad rather than send you more garbage in the mail. One thing is clear: our creeks, rivers and lakes depend on you.

THIS STORMWATER MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Visit onethingisclear.org to:

- Report accidental and illegal dumping to your local agency
- Search local volunteer events
- Find more helpful tips

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Protect your waterways. Know what you are applying, and test your soil prior to using fertilizers. Call the Colorado State University Extension, 970-491-5061, to have your soil tested.

Colorado Community Media agrees: Please recycle this newspaper responsibly and partner with our communities for a better tomorrow.

Ad campaign creative donated by the Castle Rock Water, Stormwater Division.

Just add water.

A pile of dirt and mulch, or ingredients for disaster? A simple decision on where you store your landscaping material could have a big impact on water quality. Landscaping materials left in the street travel with rain or sprinkler water directly into the storm drain. When planning your project, consider proper storage to prevent material from coming in contact with stormwater. Contact your local agency to find out how you can safely plan your next landscaping project.

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Storing and covering landscaping materials off the street keeps our waters clean.

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