

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution Poster**

# Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

## Background

Stormwater pollution, also referred to as Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution, results when rainfall and snow melt is unable to naturally soak into the ground because of paved or otherwise solid surfaces, such as roads, rooftops, and sidewalks. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants, and flow directly to a stream, river, lake, wetland, or into a storm sewer system.

## The Problem

NPS pollution affects natural resources by degrading habitats for aquatic plants and animals, and impacting drinking water resources and recreational uses of water bodies.



Each one of us contributes to NPS pollution through our daily activities. You can help reduce NPS pollution and keep our environment clean by making simple changes in your daily lifestyle.

## The Solution

Compost yard waste. Never throw leaves or clippings in streets or storm drains.



Take unwanted household chemicals to hazardous waste removal days. Do not pour them down the drain or discard with regular household trash.



Repair oil leaks from your car promptly. Recycle waste oil by taking it to a recycle center. Don't pour waste oil onto the ground or into a storm drain.

Avoid the use of fertilizers and do not apply before heavy rainfall. Pesticides are toxic to humans, animals, aquatic insects, and plants. Follow label directions carefully or use alternatives whenever possible.



Don't throw animal waste into the street or storm drain. Pick up poop and dispose in the garbage.

Wash your car at a commercial car wash. If you wash your car at home, use eco-friendly detergents (non-phosphate).



## Scoop the Poop

### The Problem

Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly; it is a health risk to pets, people, and water bodies.

Pet waste left on the ground does not always dissolve or fertilize lawns. Often, it is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into our waterways.

More specifically, pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, streets, and grassy areas is carried by stormwater runoff into the storm drain before eventually discharging into a natural body of water, untreated.



### The Solution:

Pet owners can help protect human health and the environment by disposing of pet waste properly.

Be responsible and clean up after your pets. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Bring a bag.
2. Use the bag to pick up the pet waste.
3. Dispose of the bag properly in trash.



### Harmful effects of pet waste are:

- Pet waste decays, using up dissolved oxygen and releasing compounds that are harmful to fish and other aquatic life.
- Nutrients present in pet waste can cause excessive algal growth in a waterbody, potentially leading to fish kills and disrupting the water's natural ecology.
- Harmful bacteria such as E. Coli and Fecal Coliform can make our waters unfit for drinking, irrigation, recreation and other uses.
- Parasites present in pet waste can spread gastrointestinal illnesses in humans such as Giardia and Salmonella

## Yard Waste Management

The best way to deal with landscape waste is to limit its production in the first place, or at least produce as little as possible. Select trees and shrubs with their mature height and spread in mind. Plants that require little or no pruning do not produce much landscape waste.

Sound yard waste management will benefit the landscape as well as surface and groundwater resources. No matter the location, size of home, or amount of time and money to invest in the yard, everyone can do something to improve or maintain water quality. The following are a few suggestions of ways to contribute to clean water and a healthy environment through sound yard waste management.

- Mow often enough to leave grass clippings on the lawn.
- Sweep grass clippings off paved areas. Place them on the lawn or in a compost pile.
- Keep fallen leaves out of the storm drain or ditch, compost them instead.
- Do not dump yard waste down a storm drain or near surface water.
- Plan your landscape with the environment in mind, reducing intensively maintained areas.
- Recycle organic waste through composting practices and mulching.
- Mulch annual and perennial gardens with yard waste compost.
- Use organic mulch to suppress weeds, conserve soil moisture, and reduce soil erosion.
- Add compost annually to build good soil and to add and hold nutrients in the soil.
- If scheduling to have yard waste collected, make sure to keep the debris in your yard and away from storm drains.



Radford City has prepared this educational material to meet requirements of their stormwater permit administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

For more information:

Radford City Manager's Office

Phone: 540-731-3603

[www.radfordva.gov/stormwater](http://www.radfordva.gov/stormwater)

## Nutrient Management

### Pesticide Information:

- Read and understand the label. The label is the law.
- Do not spray pesticides on plants that are flowering to protect the pollinators.
- Pesticides and pesticide containers must be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection site.
- Do not apply pesticides when it is windy out.

### Fertilizer Information:

- Read and understand the label.
- Do a soil test before applying fertilizer. Soil tests can be obtained from your local extension agency.
- Fall is the best time to fertilize.
- Do not over apply fertilizer. It can runoff into storm drains.
- Do not remove grass clippings from lawn. Clippings can help fertilize lawns, reducing the need for fertilizer in the fall.