

Poorly managed stormwater affects us all.

Ordinance No. 2008-06 prohibits unauthorized discharges into storm drains or ditch systems. The costs for removing dumped items and cleaning spills are very high. By working together, Walton County will continue to be a great place to work and live now and in the future.

Remember

What we do affects rivers, lakes, coastal waters, wildlife and YOUR drinking water. Once everyone realizes how they contribute to the problem and that they can be part of the solution, the threat of stormwater pollution will decline.



www.paxcos.com

A rain garden can be a collaborative project created and enjoyed by the whole community.

CONTACTS

To report a spill or illegal dumping, contact Code Enforcement at 622-0000.

To learn about waste disposal, contact Public Works at 892-8108.

For more information about stormwater and other general water quality issues, check out these websites:

Walton County - www.co.walton.fl.us

IFAS Extension
<http://walton.ifas.ufl.edu>

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance-
www.basinalliance.org

Florida Department of Environmental Protection - www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/index.htm

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/owow/nps/dosdont.html

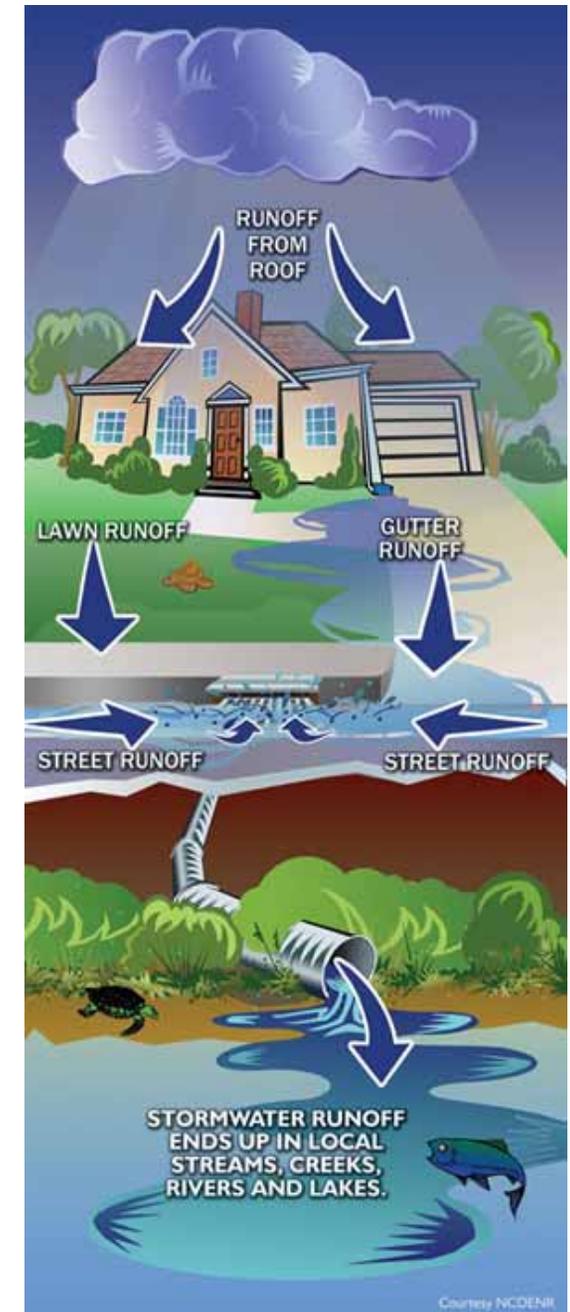
www.raingardennetwork.com



Walton County Public Works

117 Montgomery Circle
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
Phone: 850-892-8108

Stormwater and You



What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rain that falls on streets, driveways, parking areas, rooftops, or other developed land. These impervious surfaces prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground, so it flows directly into nearby lakes, rivers and Choctawhatchee Bay. The rain picks up and mixes with what's on the ground:



- Oil, grease, metals and coolants from vehicles
- Fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals from gardens and homes
- Bacteria from failing septic systems
- Soil from construction sites, dirt roads and other bare ground
- Soaps from car or equipment washing
- Accidental spills, leaky storage containers, tobacco spit and whatever else ends up on the ground.

The polluted runoff then rushes into nearby ditches and storm drains and into Walton County's streams, lakes, rivers, bays and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico.

How does stormwater runoff affect me?

Walton County's residents and visitors depend upon our water resources for agriculture, industry, and a variety of recreational activities such as fishing, boating and swimming. Most importantly, we depend upon it for our drinking water.

We all contribute to stormwater pollution in different ways. For example, driving a car, mowing the grass or fertilizing a garden can all contribute to pollution. Polluted stormwater runoff contaminates our waters, harms or kills aquatic life, and disturbs the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.



What is Walton County doing?

In an effort to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of our citizens, Walton County passed Ordinance No. 2008-06 to help regulate non-stormwater discharges that degrade surface waters, making them unsafe for drinking, swimming, fishing and other activities. As part of this effort, the Public Works Division has an ongoing public awareness campaign that promotes the use of best management practices (BMPs) regarding stormwater runoff within the business community and among the citizens of Walton County.

Be a part of the solution!

Unfortunately, most people do not understand the threat of stormwater pollution to our water resources. They do not realize that everyday activities can contribute to wa-

ter pollution. Many people do not believe that their preventive actions can really make a difference, but they can! Here are 10 things you can do to protect Walton County's waterways.

1. **CONSERVE WATER.** Stop faucet drips.
2. **DO NOT LITTER.** Sweep up driveways and sidewalks, and never dump anything down storm drains.
3. **PLANT NATIVE PLANTS.** They require little or no fertilizers or pesticides and are better at water absorption and plant hardiness.
4. **PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET.** Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.
5. **AVOID OVER-FERTILIZING.** Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly. They are a major cause of stormwater pollution.
6. **VEGETATE YOUR YARD.** Vegetation functions to filter and absorb rainwater. Consider planting gardens in bare spots. Even better, plant a rain garden.
7. **DIRECT RUNOFF AWAY FROM PAVED SURFACES.** Consider a rain barrel or rain garden to capture runoff.
8. **MAINTAIN YOUR CAR.** Check your car for leaks and recycle used motor oil.
9. **USE A COMMERCIAL CAR WASH.** Or, wash your car on the grass and use biodegradable detergents.
10. **START A COMPOST PILE.** Compost your yard and organic waste.



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