

We all need to take an active role to **stop illegal dumping** and prevent pollution.

- Sweep up grass clippings and leaves and place them in yard waste bags or collection cans labeled YW (for "Yard Waste").
- Always dispose of your trash properly. Take household hazardous materials like used oil, anti-freeze, car batteries, paint, and solvents to a certified hazardous waste collection facility like Under The Sink (www.underthesink.org).
- Pick up after your pets whether at home, at the park, or out on a walk.
- Do not transport unsecured debris in the back of a vehicle. Use a tarp or other cover.
- Organize volunteer clean-ups of roadways and illegal dumpsites — studies show people are less likely to litter in clean areas.
- Do not pay contractors until they present you with a landfill receipt showing that your waste was properly disposed.
- Mark your neighborhood storm drains with a "No Dumping" disc as a visual reminder. Call Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. for supplies at 402-444-7774.
- All lawn fertilizers and chemicals should be used as directed. Never apply them just prior to watering or if rain is expected.

For more information about proper disposal of household hazardous waste, please go to:



www.underthesink.org
(402) 444-SINK (7465)

For "No Dumping" discs to mark your neighborhood storm drains, contact:



www.keepomahabeautiful.org
(402) 444-7774



The City of Omaha Stormwater Program is a comprehensive program comprised of various elements and activities designed to reduce stormwater pollution and eliminate prohibited non-stormwater discharges.



Environmental Quality Control

402-444-3908

www.OmahaStormwater.org

Funded By Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

Water Pollution Comes In Many Forms

We All Need To Do Our Part To Keep Our Creeks, Rivers And Lakes Clean



You may be polluting and not even know it.

Having clean creeks and streams leads to unpolluted lakes, rivers and even oceans. But to keep our water free of pollution, we have to be aware of what actually harms our waterways.

Yard waste can lay waste to our creeks.

It's true. Anytime you dump grass clippings, leaves or twigs into storm drains, creek beds or directly into creeks, you're harming our water. Natural vegetation that is discarded can quickly overload creeks with nutrients that promote excessive growth of algae. This removes oxygen from the water, so fish and other aquatic life can't breathe.

That's not all. Dumping yard waste along creek banks can block the creek and obstruct drainage. It can even cause erosion of the creek bank because yard waste keeps the natural vegetation from growing properly. When banks erode and sediment clouds the water, fish can't survive. Who knew that a seemingly harmless practice could do so much damage?

Keep our storm drains free of debris.

Storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to our creeks, rivers and lakes. Trash and chemicals that go down storm drains pollute our valuable water resources.



Dont' dump it!
Dispose of waste properly and keep our water clean.

Did you know...

Many household products are dangerous to our kids, pets and the environment? Not only that, but illegal dumping and roadside litter are serious problems that cost our city thousands of dollars every year. Litter contaminates ground and surface water and can cause flooding by blocking storm drains, streams, culverts and drainage basins. There are health risks, economic consequences and environmental tolls that affect us all.

Don't dump these down a storm drain or near a waterway:

- Dirt, Rock or Concrete Debris
- Lawn Chemicals
- Yard Waste
- Motor Oil or Fuel
- Anti-Freeze
- Pet Waste
- Litter
- Cigarette Butts
- Paint and Paint Thinner
- Solvents

The problem with stormwater runoff.

When rain or snowmelt flows over the ground and onto surfaces like roads, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants on the way to city storm drains, streams, lakes and reservoirs. That means it all goes untreated into the waterways we use for fishing and swimming.

Immediately report illegal dumping!

Call 402-444-3908 to report the following:

- Illegal dumping in ditches, creeks or lakes
- Oil or gas entering a storm drain
- Soap suds or discolored water exiting a storm sewer pipe
- Chemicals spilled on the road
- Sediment entering a stream from an unknown source
- Illegal dumping in a storm drain