

Storm Drain Protection

What is a Storm Drain?

A storm drain is a network of underground pipes designed to convey precipitation and prevent flooding by transporting stormwater from urban areas directly to a water body. Storm drains also include curbs, gutters, down spouts, channels, sumps, ditches, pipes, and culverts.



Is Storm Water Treated?

NO! Storm water (and anything else) entering a storm drain flows directly to a nearby stream and eventually into the Savannah River. Storm water is not treated by the Augusta waste water treatment system. Oils, chemicals, animal and sanitary waste, pesticides, fertilizers, and trash dumped into storm drains empty at outlets into our streams **completely untreated.**



What You Can Do!

1. Sweep, instead of hosing off the driveway, street, or sidewalk. Water runoff from driveways or sidewalks carries contaminants such as dirt, motor oil, fertilizers, and animal waste, through storm drains and into waterways.



2. Lawn and garden chemicals. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, and follow the manufacturer's directions. Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before a rain event.

3. Safely dispose of household cleaners and motor oil. Many automotive and cleaning products are too dangerous to be disposed of in the trash or down the drain. Products should be recycled or taken to a community hazardous waste center. NEVER pour them down a storm drain!

4. Compost or mulch yard waste. Sweep (do not wash) leaves or grass clippings that accumulate on your driveway, sidewalk, or in the street.



5. Clean up after your pet. Pick up pet wastes. Dispose of pet wastes properly, such as placing in a trash receptacle or flushing down the toilet.



6. Use detergents sparingly when washing your car. Remember, any dirt, grease, oil, detergents, or cleaners from your car will eventually end up in the storm drain. If you can, use a commercial car wash – their runoff is treated.



7. Act locally. Organize a stream bank cleanup or storm drain marking project in your community.



If you have any questions, contact the Augusta Engineering Department

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