

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns. Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.  
**Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.**

*Springtime means spring cleaning for many of us. Whether you are cleaning inside the house, in the garage, out on the deck, or on the driveway, you can have an impact on water quality. Here are some simple steps for keeping our waterways healthy and clean while spring cleaning!*

## DON'T DUMP OR FLUSH MEDICATIONS



Expired or unused medication and personal care products should be disposed of properly. Take your unused pharmaceuticals to a drug take back program.

## DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPERLY



If you have old oil-based paint, solvents, dead batteries or other items from your garage or home, remember to dispose of them properly. This means no dumping in storm drains, flushing down toilets or throwing in the trash. Substances like these are considered household hazardous waste (HHW) and must be disposed of in a designated location to help protect water quality. Check your city or township's website for disposal days and locations.

## SWEEP INSTEAD OF HOSE



If you are cleaning up your driveway or sidewalks, please remember to use a broom to sweep dirt and debris onto your lawn or into a trash can. When you hose the debris from your driveway or sidewalks, the runoff you create goes into storm drains and out to local rivers and streams.

## USE NATURAL CLEANING PRODUCTS



If you plan to wash your outdoor furniture, windows, deck, car, etc., make sure the cleaning products you use are free of chemicals, phosphates and water-based only. Never do washing or rinsing on your driveway. Instead, do it on the grass and far from a river, lake or stream to prevent runoff from entering storm drains.

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