

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground.

Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

## Why is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland.

Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

To learn more, visit the Polk County Stormwater Website at

<http://www.co.polk.or.us/cd/building/stormwater-resources>



## What You Can Do:

### ◇ *Auto Care*

Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.

### ◇ *Rain Barrels*



You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.

### ◇ *Vegetated Filter Strips*

You can plant filter strips, which are areas of native grass or plants, along driveways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across impervious surfaces.

### ◇ *Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste*

For more information about how to properly dispose of Household Hazardous Waste, you can contact the Polk County Environmental Health Division at (503) 623-9237.

### ◇ *Illicit Discharge*

To report illicit discharge call (503) 623-9287, or visit <https://www.co.polk.or.us/pw/report-spill>