

The Cycle of Storm Water



Did you know that storm water runoff drains directly to our open surface waters, such as our nearby lakes and rivers, and may even travel as far as the oceans?

This picture shows the cycle that rain water travels through before reaching our local waterways. Listed below is the description of each numbered star:

- 1 Rain falls from the sky and drains down the roof and into the gutters.
- 2 Runoff water then drains through the gutters and out through the downspout.
- 3 After exiting the downspout, the runoff water drains through the yard, picking up **pet waste**, **fertilizers**, and yard debris such as **leaves** and **grass clippings**. Runoff water also drains over the road and driveway, picking up **chemicals** from your car such as oil or car wash fluids, and **trash** that may have been left on the ground.
- 4 The runoff water carries all of these **pollutants** to the storm drain.
- 5 The storm drain then leads directly to our local waterways where some may fish or swim.

Keeping these things off the ground and out of our waterways will help protect our waters and wildlife!



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