

HELP US HELP YOU!

BY PROPERLY USING OUR LOCAL STORMWATER SYSTEM, YOU HELP TO ENSURE IT FUNCTIONS CORRECTLY AND PREVENTS UNNECESSARY POLLUTION FROM ENTERING OUR WATERWAYS... IMPACTING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR DRINKING WATER. THIS SYSTEM ALSO HELPS TO ENSURE THAT ANY CONTAMINANTS ARE PROPERLY TREATED.

If you have curbs and gutters near your home or business, they likely lead to a storm drain. Storm drains are the metal grates found on local streets and transport anything that is washed or dumped from nearby properties into stormwater ponds. These ponds then transfer the water directly to nearby rivers and lakes.

Unfortunately, it's not a perfect system. Contaminated stormwater can flow from rooftops, paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, through lawns, and into storm drains. Along the way, it collects and transports soil, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter, and other pollutants.

Therefore, if there are contaminants in the water that enters storm drains, they too will be washed into local waterways. To make matters worse, the impacts of polluted stormwater are much greater in a larger metro area such as Baton Rouge.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

By following these simple steps, our stormwater system – paid for by you, the taxpayer – will be easier to manage and less costly to maintain. And perhaps more importantly, it will go a long way toward protecting our environment.

If you have questions about proper stormwater usage, contact DES at (225) 389-4865 or visit www.brla.gov/des.

SEE IT. REPORT IT!

CONSTRUCTION SITES CAN BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO STORM DRAIN ISSUES. CALL AND REPORT SITES THAT MAY BE IN VIOLATION OF STORM DRAIN ORDINANCES.



To report these sites and other issues such as illegal dumping, storm drain problems, water quality, chemical spills, or request services such as garbage, recycling, or those involving sewer or wastewater issues, call 311 or download the free Red Stick 311 mobile app: 311.BRLA.GOV



YOUR STORM DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN

IT IS NOT A COMPOST BIN.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOOD FOR OUR EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH STORM DRAINS

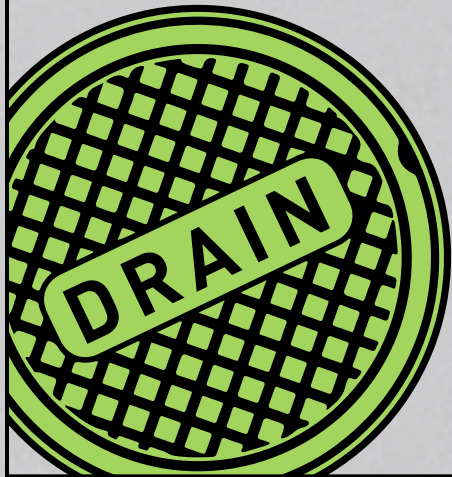
DES
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

BR
CITY OF BATON ROUGE
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

ONLY RAIN SHOULD GO IN A STORM DRAIN

That's because harmful substances or contaminants that enter storm drains are not treated at a wastewater treatment plant. They flow directly to streams, rivers, and lakes without treatment, potentially harming plants, fish, and wildlife as well as corrupting our water supply.

Some common contaminants that can compromise our stormwater system include lawn chemicals, pet waste, household chemicals, soaps, products advertised as "non-toxic" or "biodegradable," soil, and dirt.



WHAT'S BAD

NEVER DISCARD TRASH OR YARD WASTE INTO A STORM DRAIN OR ONTO A STREET.

NEVER SWEEP MATERIALS SUCH AS GRASS AND TREE CLIPPINGS INTO A STORM DRAIN OR ONTO A STREET.

THIS IS HAZARDOUS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND CAN CAUSE FLOODING IN YOUR STREET.



WHAT'S GOOD

SWEEP DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS AND DISPOSE OF WASTE. REMOVE DEBRIS AND RESIDUE THAT COULD END UP IN A STORM DRAIN.



TAKE THESE STEPS TO MINIMIZE STORM WATER POLLUTION

- **USE** lawn chemicals safely. Follow instructions and never apply before rain or watering the lawn, unless directed.
- **PICK UP** after pets. Bring extra bags to pick up and dispose of waste properly.
- **RECYCLE** used oil. Never place used motor oil in the trash or pour down storm drains. Instead, bring it to a local recycling location.
- **WASH** cars on the lawn or at a car wash – not on a driveway or in the street.
- **DISPOSE** of debris with a broom rather than a water hose. Hosing will send unwanted debris into the storm drain.
- **KEEP** litter and yard debris clear from storm drains. Litter is easily carried into storm drains and waterways by wind and rain.
- **SECURE** items intended for trash and recycling pickup. Wind could easily blow these items into a storm drain.
- **PROPERLY STORE** household items. Repackage leaking containers and secure other household items to prevent them from falling over and leaving your property.
- **SWEEP** pesticides and fertilizer off hard surfaces and onto your lawn to reduce the likelihood of these substances being washed away in a storm.