What is stormwater runoff?

Any form of precipitation that runs off roads, lawns and the ground, and picks up debris, chemicals, fertilizers, animal waste and other pollutants, then deposits them into a storm sewer system or directly into rivers.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Anything that enters a storm system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing & providing drinking water.

The effects of pollution

≅ Sediment can cloud water and make it difficult for aquatic plants to grow and fish to breathe.

≅ Excess nutrients cause algae blooms. When the algae die, oxygen is removed from the water which other aquatic organisms need to survive.

≅ Fecal bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

≅ Debris or trash washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate or poison wildlife and contribute to the Great Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch.

≅ Hazardous waste poisons aquatic life. Wildlife and people can become sick from eating diseased fish or ingesting polluted water.

Remember: Only Rain Down the Drain!

To keep the stormwater leaving your home or workplace clean, follow these simple guidelines:

≅ Use pesticides & fertilizers sparingly, or not at all.

≅ Repair auto leaks.

≅ Dispose of hazardous waste, batteries and used auto fluids at designated collection or recycling locations.

≅ Clean up after your pet.

≅ Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface where the water can be filtered.

≅ Sweep up yard and street debris rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.

≅ Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program.

≅ Sweep up & properly dispose of construction debris like concrete & mortar.

≅ See Hood River Transfer Station for drop off locations and dates for hazardous waste disposal. Yard waste disposal is free on Wednesdays! (541) 386-2272