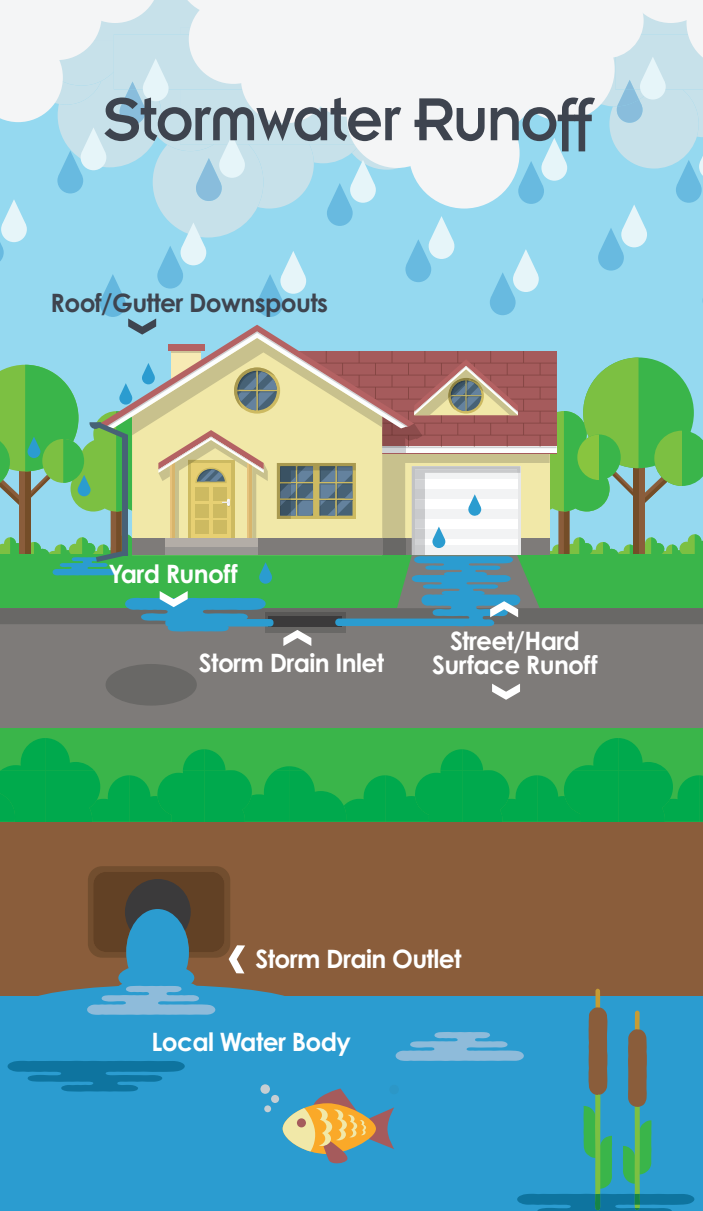


# Stormwater Runoff



When rain or snowmelt flows over the ground and onto surfaces like roads, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, it picks up debris, automotive fluids, paint, chemicals, and other pollutants on the way to city storm drains, streams, lakes and reservoirs. That means it all goes untreated into the waterways we use for fishing and swimming.

## Immediately report illegal dumping!

Call **402-444-3908** to report the following:

- Illegal dumping in ditches, creeks or lakes
- Oil or gas entering a storm drain
- Soap suds or discolored water exiting a storm sewer pipe
- Chemicals spilled on the road
- Sediment entering a stream from an unknown source
- Illegal dumping in a storm drain



The City of Omaha Stormwater Program is a comprehensive program comprised of various elements and activities designed to reduce stormwater pollution and eliminate prohibited non-stormwater discharges.



Environmental Quality Control

**402-444-3908**  
[www.OmahaStormwater.org](http://www.OmahaStormwater.org)

## Auto Maintenance at Home

**Best Practices for Protecting our Local Waterways**



# Think before you open your hood

For some homeowners, there's nothing better than tinkering with the old jalopy in their garage or driveway – it's relaxing, satisfying and gives you "alone time" away from family and friends.

What many do-it-yourselfers don't realize is the negative effect this practice can have on the environment if toxic substances from commonly used items – motor oil, other automotive fluids and batteries – are allowed to enter our local waterways. Here's what you should know before heading out to work on your car (this also applies to home maintenance for your motorcycle, boat, lawn mower or snow blower):

Any fluid you drain from your car should be taken to an auto parts store, a recycling facility like Under the Sink or a transfer station. Never pour them out in your yard, throw them in the trash or pour them down a drain.

Under the Sink, located at 4001 S. 120th Street, is the City of Omaha's household hazardous waste collection facility. Drop off is Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Appointments are required on Saturday. For the latest information, including a list of accepted items, visit: [www.underthesink.org](http://www.underthesink.org)

Don't ignore drips or leaks! Clean them with a dry method – try scraping, wiping or sweeping, depending on the substance.

Treat the flammable liquids and other materials with the respect they deserve. Gasoline cans and solvents should be capped and stored in a dedicated flammables cabinet away from electrical sparks and other potential sources of ignition.



## When in doubt, use a professional

If you like the idea of changing your own oil but are uncertain of your abilities, take your car to a professional. In addition to being messy, oil leaks have the potential to start fires. Other tasks – like brake and steering repairs – can undermine the safety of your vehicle if executed improperly.

## To wash or not to wash (at home)

Believe it or not, bringing your car to a commercial car wash is better for the environment. Why? Federal laws in the United States require commercial car wash facilities to drain wastewater into sewer systems. The water then gets treated and filtered before it's recycled back into local water sources. In addition, commercial car washes have high-pressure water nozzles that use water more efficiently than a regular garden hose. Some even recycle the wastewater collected in their drains.

## Protecting our water is everyone's responsibility.

Each day, the Metropolitan Utilities District provides an average of about 90 million gallons of water for its customers, both residential and commercial. Whether you own a home or business, the way you use water has a direct impact on our waterways.

## Don't dump these down a storm drain or near a waterway:

- Dirt, Rock or Concrete Debris
- Lawn Chemicals
- Yard Waste
- Motor Oil or Fuel
- Anti-Freeze
- Pet Waste
- Litter
- Paint, Paint Thinner or Solvents

**Only rain goes down the drain!**