

How can I help?

Do pick up after your pet. Scoop it up, bag it and dispose in your regular garbage or flush the waste down the toilet.

Do pick up litter from your property. Also, consider adopting a storm drain to keep clean or participating in a cleanup event.

Do not blow grass clippings, leaves, weeds, etc. onto streets and gutters or into storm drain inlets and ditches.

Do not change oil or fluids on a driveway or paved area sloping to the street or near a storm drain inlet or a ditch — take it to a service station or use drip pans and drop off at a recycle center or approved disposal handler.

Do not allow pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers to drain onto streets and gutters or into storm drain inlets and ditches — use sparingly; away from the drains; not before expected rainfall; and prevent sprinkler water from causing their runoff into drains.

How can I help?

Do not wash vehicles or equipment on a driveway sloping to the street or near a storm drain inlet or ditch — take it to a car wash or wash the vehicle on a vegetated area.

Do not dispose leftover paint, cleaners, solvents, or household hazardous wastes into storm drains — use completely or take it to a collection center.

Do not allow power wash water with chemicals/soaps/detergents to enter storm drains — collect and discharge to the sanitary sewer or over a vegetated area.

Do not dispose chlorinated or salt water from pools or spas into storm drains or ditches. Discharge to sanitary sewer.

REMEMBER, storm water is not treated—it goes straight to water bodies, which are where we swim & fish.

KNOW YOUR STORM WATER!



Storm Water and Watersheds
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How can I help?



Storm Water Management
Educational Series

Storm Water and Watersheds

When it rains, water hits the ground or a surface and infiltrates into the ground or runs off the surface. In some cases, the water evaporates. Water that goes into the ground is typically known as groundwater. Water that runs off the ground or a surface is known as **storm water**.

Storm water runoff occurs when rain hits an impervious surface (roof, driveway, paved road, parking lot, concrete pad, clay, etc.). Typically, storm water flows from a ridge line (highest point that separates two areas) to a collection point/area downstream. The area where rain falls and is collected is known as a **watershed**.

Mobile County contains sixteen (16) watersheds - **Fowl River, Seabury Creek, Meekers Creek, Lower Dog River, Upper Dog River, Halls Mill Creek, Grand Bay, Gunnison Creek, Eightmile Creek, Bayou Sara, Three Mile Creek, Deer River, Lower Chasaw Creek, Big Creek-Hamilton Creek, Big Creek-Pierce Creek, and Middle Mobile Bay**. The Mobile city limits intersect nine (9) - **Muddy Creek, Bayou Sara, Chickasaw Creek, Dog River, Millers Creek, Mobile Bay, Mobile River, Pierce Creek and Three Mile Creek**.

Storm Water Pollution

Stormwater runoff is the **#1 source of water pollution**.

Storm water runoff from impervious surfaces (roads, driveways, parking lots, roofs, etc.) is collected from streets and gutters into storm drain inlets, pipes and ditches. The collection of roads, curbs, gutters, inlets, pipes, ditches, channels, etc... is known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). In most cases, storm water collected by the MS4, flows **directly into our creeks, rivers, bays and oceans**.

Storm water collects, mixes and drains exposed material on the surface (litter, trash, dirt, metals, oil, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, paint, and other illicit discharges/improper disposals) and directly discharges to our creeks, rivers, and other water bodies.

Unlike sanitary sewer waste water (from sinks, showers, toilets, laundry, wash areas, etc...), **storm water is NOT treated** before entering our water bodies.

Storm water pollution could affect your watershed — **where you swim and fish**.

Storm Water Pollution Causes

Storm water pollution can be caused by several factors such as:

LITTER/TRASH

Cans, paper, plastic, cups, trash, cigarette butts, bottles, etc...

CHEMICALS

Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, oils, antifreeze, paint, etc...

MATERIAL

Leaves, grass clippings, sediment, pet waste, power wash, and vehicle wash effluent.

Storm water pollution is caused by simple day-to-day activities.

For example:

- Sweeping litter, leaves, trash, grass clippings, mulch, dirt, etc... onto streets or into storm drains
- Washing equipment, tools & vehicles on driveways, streets, or parking lots.
- Exposing stock-piles of waste, liquids, dirt, mulch, metals, and other runoff-type material to rain.
- Dumping paint, yard wastes, household chemicals, pet wastes, etc. into storm drains or ditches.