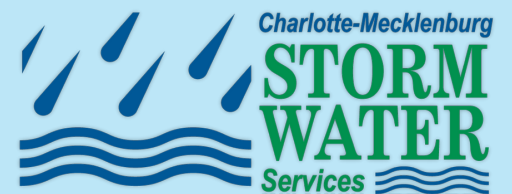Report pollution in our streams and lakes
Call 311 or use the CLT+ app

StormWater.CharMeck.org

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Resident's Guide to Stormwater

Charlotte-Mecklenburg
STORM WATER
Services

What is stormwater?

Rain and melting snow create runoff as it moves across landscapes and roadways into storm drains.

These drains lead the untreated stormwater through underground pipes that empty directly into lakes, streams, rivers and other waterways around Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

What is stormwater pollution?

Anything that stormwater picks up when it flows into our waterways has the potential to be pollution.

Some common examples include:

- Bacteria from pet waste and failing septic systems
- Car antifreeze, grease, oil and heavy metals
- Fertilizers and pesticides from lawns
- Trash from dumping or improper disposal
- Sediment from erosion and loose dirt

It starts with you!

You can help keep our waterways clean by:

- Educating your household
- Following the tips in this brochure
- Reporting stormwater pollution to 311 or by using the CLT+ app
- Getting involved with one of our volunteer programs

Collect and Reuse Stormwater

Rain barrels are a great way to make use of clean water to use in your garden or for plants around the house. You will also be helping to capture stormwater before it becomes runoff.

Pick Up Your Pet's Waste

Bacteria, parasites, and diseases from pet waste can easily be picked up by stormwater and washed into storm drains, ending up in our waterways. Scoop the Poop and help keep aquatic habitats clean.

Properly Dispose of Hazardous Waste

Motor oil, paint, cleaners, and grease are all examples of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). They should be disposed of by putting them in a sealed container and taking them to a recycling center.

Keep Storm Drains Clean and Clear

Remove yard waste, trash, and other debris from storm drains to allow stormwater to easily flow into them and to prevent pollution from entering our waterways.

Practice Green Lawn Care

When applying fertilizers and pesticides, make sure to only use the recommended amount. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer. Bag leaves as advised by your municipality.

Use a Car Wash Facility

Oils, metals, and soap washed off cars are harmful to streams. Car wash facilities discharge wash water directly to the sanitary sewer which gets treated before returning to our waterways.