

*Our Water...
Our Responsibility.*

It's a pretty common belief that the water in our storm drains is filtered or treated before it makes its way into our rivers and lakes.

The truth is, it's not.

When we dump harsh chemicals on our lawns and dispose of toxic substances via storm drains, harmful pollutants enter our waterways, killing fish, destroying wildlife habitats, decreasing aesthetic value and contaminating the water we boat in, swim in – and drink. It's a risk to our environment. . . and a risk to our health.

According to a recent government survey, 40 percent of U.S. water bodies were still impaired by pollution, failing to meet government standards. It's a problem we contribute to – most of the time unknowingly – when we let harmful pollutants run into our storm drains and enter our waterways.

The Nebraska H2O program has been established in order to change the statistics and protect our waterways before any more damage is done. But we need your help. Take the checklist around your home and see what you can do to help.

Spring Clean-up Checklist:

Litter Disposal

Dispose of all the litter and garbage that has accumulated in your yard over the winter. Place trash in trashcan or recycle it at your local recycling center. Make sure your dumpster lids are shut tight to prevent garbage blowing away.

Taking care of your car

Take your car to a self-service car wash. These facilities are designed with special drains for proper disposal. Take your used motor oil to the City Service Building located at 801 W. Vine Street.

Pet waste

It's best to dispose of pet waste in the trash or, better yet, flush it down the toilet. The water will be properly treated.

Household chemicals

Cleaning products and other household chemicals should never be dumped outside or down a storm drain. Don't over fertilize your yard. Check the label on the bag to see the recommended amount. As a rule, your total water from rain and irrigation per week during the growing season should be .75 – 1.5 inches.

Contact us

For more information on the Nebraska Stormwater Cooperative's mission to keep harmful pollutants from entering our waters – and to find out more ways you can help – please email us at info@nebraskah2o.org or visit www.NebraskaH2O.org.

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