

### Automotive Care



Vehicles can be a major contributor to water pollution. Any grease, oil or other fluids that leak from cars falls on impervious surfaces. When it rains the pollutants are picked up by rainwater and transported to the storm sewer system, where they are discharged into our lakes and rivers.

Follow these steps to help prevent storm water pollution:

- \* Keep your car in good running condition. The less oil and fluids that leak, the less pollutants end up in lakes and rivers.
- \* Properly clean up fluids from any leaks.
- \* Don't dump fluids such as oil, gasoline and coolants into the storm sewer system. Dispose of them at approved sites.
- \* The City of Baxter's used oil site is located on Industrial Park Road.

Washing your car and degreasing parts at home can also send detergents, oils and fluids down the storm sewer system.

- \* Use commercial car washes as the water goes into the sanitary sewer where it is treated.
- \* Wash your car on pervious surfaces such as your lawn where the water infiltrates into the ground instead of going into the storm sewer.

Be Part of the Solution.  
Stop Stormwater Pollution  
Clean Water Starts with You



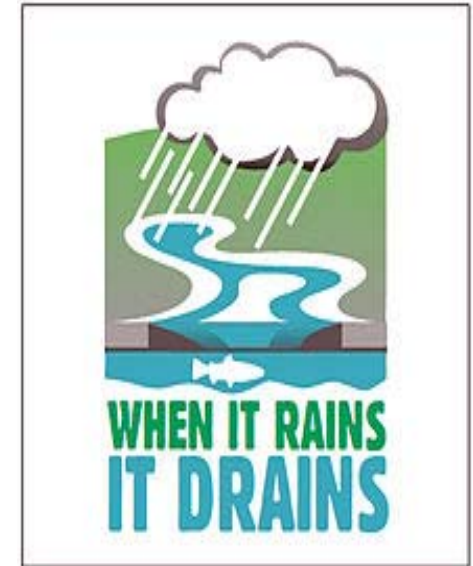
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CITY OF BAXTER

## STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN



Homeowner/Business Factsheet

Stormwater Information  
[www.baxter.mn.gov](http://www.baxter.mn.gov)  
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# WHAT IS STORMWATER?



Stormwater is rainfall or melted snow that runs off impervious surfaces, such as roadways, rooftops, sidewalks and parking lots. Impervious, or hard surfaces prevent the stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground, where the soil would filter out pollutants.

## What is Stormwater Pollution?

Stormwater runoff pollution is often called non-point source pollution. It is basically rain water that becomes polluted once earthbound, and the pollution occurs from many sources. Sources of stormwater pollution are driveways, streets, parking lots, construction sites, agricultural fields, lawns, pet wastes, failing sewer systems, leaking septic tanks, and illicit discharges such as dumping waste motor oil.

Pollutants of concern include but are not limited to oils, grease, sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, bacteria, debris and litter, etc. Stormwater runoff can wash these pollutants through the storm drain system and into local streams and rivers.

Please remember, stormwater runoff does not flow to a treatment plant; it flows directly into our streams and lakes. Stormwater runoff from the City of Baxter ultimately reaches the waters you in which you fish, swim and recreate so it is imperative to implement best management practices to better manage stormwater runoff.

## Stormwater Pollution Solutions

Everyone has a part to play. Reducing the pollution depends on every person preventing harmful natural or chemical substances from entering the drain.

### Landscaping

To help prevent sediment and debris from being deposited in area lakes and rivers:

- \* Do not place soil, mulch or other materials on driveways.
- \* Sweep up any sediment on driveways.
- \* Seed all disturbed areas as soon as possible.

### Lawn Care

Yard clippings and leaves disposed of improperly can end up in the storm sewer system clogging the storm sewer and contributing to excess organic matter in lakes and rivers.

To help prevent problems you can do the following:

- \* Maintain a dense cover of grass or landscaping to reduce runoff, prevent erosion, and retain nutrient.
- \* Reduce or eliminate fertilizer.
- \* Do not apply fertilizers before spring green up or after the grass becomes dormant.
- \* Immediately sweep off any fertilizer that lands on a paved surface.
- \* Keep clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn and keep them out of streets and storm drains.



## Household Waste

Many products that are used at home such as paint, cleaners, garden chemicals, automotive cleaners and aerosol cans can contain hazardous substances. When these products are no longer useful, they become household hazardous waste. Please remember to dispose of them properly.

- \* Always use and store the products according to manufacturer's directions.
- \* Keep chemicals in their original container or properly label them.
- \* Crow Wing County Landfill collects most types of household hazardous wastes. Please contact the Solid Waste Office at 218-824-1290 for more information.

## Pet Waste

When owners neglect to pick up after their animals, pet waste gets left behind and can wash into storm drains. This can spread disease through numerous types of bacteria.

Always clean up after your pet and dispose of the waste in the trash, in a sealed or tied plastic bag. Commercial "scoopers" can also be purchased to make proper disposal even easier. Some are disposable and come with biodegradable, sealable bags.

Check pet store and catalogs for these items.

