

Clean Water Act

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (known as the Clean Water Act or CWA) was enacted in 1972 as a basis for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES permit program was established to regulate the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States. The CWA requires that NPDES permits be issued to anyone who wants to discharge pollutants into waters of the U.S. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been given the authority, through the CWA, to set the effluent limits for pollutants to ensure the protection of the receiving water.



Interesting fact

The EPA estimates that 193 million gallons of used oil is generated every year in America, and the amount of oil that is improperly dumped into stormdrains is the equivalent of 17 Exxon Valdez oil spills every year.

For any further information or comments please visit our website or send us an e-mail.



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NAMPA HIGHWAY DISTRICT NO. 1

Stormwater Management Program

Keeping our streams and rivers clean for generations to come.



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Public Education & Outreach

Nampa Highway District is providing this brochure to you for more information on stormwater pollution, and what you can do to reduce or eliminate it.

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the runoff from melting snow or a rain storm. As stormwater flows across hard surfaces such as parking lots, streets, concrete, or rooftops, it does not penetrate into the ground, but rather it is collected in a stormwater system. As stormwater moves across these surfaces, it collects harmful materials like fertilizer, oils and sediment that effect water quality, and can be detrimental to aquatic life as well as human health.



Pollutants of Concern

The EPA has outlined some pollutants that are of concern in this area. These pollutants are ***Total Phosphorus***, ***Sediment***, and ***E. coli***.

Total Phosphorus is the total concentration of phosphorus that is measured in a water sample. Phosphorus is an essential nutrient in the environment, but too much of it can be harmful to a fresh water body source. An increased level of phosphorus can create excessive plant growth and algae blooms, as well as decrease the dissolved oxygen levels which are essential for aquatic life.



Higher levels of phosphorus can come from several different sources. These sources include urban runoff, construction sites, feedlots, agricultural fields, failed septic systems, fertilizers, and human waste.

Sediment is small material that has broken away from rocks or unconsolidated soil deposits due to weathering. It is collected with the stormwater and is then deposited into streams, rivers and other water bodies.



E. coli (*Escherichia coli*) is a form of fecal coliform bacteria that exist in the intestines of humans and animals. *E. coli* is present in animal and human waste; it can be washed into water bodies during a storm event or snow melt.

How you can avoid polluting the water

- * Keep debris such as leaves, pet waste, and litter out of storm drains



- * Use fertilizers sparingly and follow the manufacturer's directions.

- * Do not over water lawns and ensure that the sprinklers do not over spray onto roadways.



- * Plant ground cover to help control soil erosion.



- * Dispose of grease, oils, antifreeze and other household chemicals properly. Do not pour them down the storm drain.

- * Clean up oil, anti-freeze and grease spills with an absorbent material, do not wash them into the street with water.



- * Use only household detergents and cleaners that have low amounts of phosphorus.