

Ten Ways You Can Improve the Quality of Stormwater Runoff

1. Cover piles of soil, sand or mulch to stop them from being transported in stormwater. Plant grass or native plants where soil is exposed.
2. Sweep your sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them down.
3. Put leaves and grass clippings in the compost, on the garden as mulch, or use mulching mower to recycle nutrients back into the lawn. Use fertilizers sparingly.
4. Direct roof water away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden design or other approved system where it can be captured.
5. Keep pesticides, weed killers, oil, leaves and other pollutants off streets and out of storm drains.
6. Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks - better yet, walk, bike or utilize public transportation.
7. Wash your vehicle at a car wash, on grass or over gravel. Use as little detergent as you can and pour any left over soapy water on the lawn.
8. Dispose of household hazardous waste according to the label directions. Reuse turpentine once the paint has settled.
9. Clean up pet waste - bag it and dispose in garbage or flush it down the toilet.
10. Have your septic system inspected by a professional every 3 to 5 years and have the septic system pumped as necessary (usually every 3 to 5 years).

If you have questions or would like more information on this topic, email Senior Engineer David Yaghoobi at david@cityofedgewood.org .