

## What is Stormwater Pollution?

When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on our streets, sidewalk, parking lots, gutters, and lawns wash down the storm drains and into our creeks and streams. Unfortunately storm drains do not filter water or debris, and they are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. So any pollutant that flows into the storm drain ends up exactly where it shouldn't be-our creeks, ponds, and lakes.

## Stormwater Quality and your Private Septic System

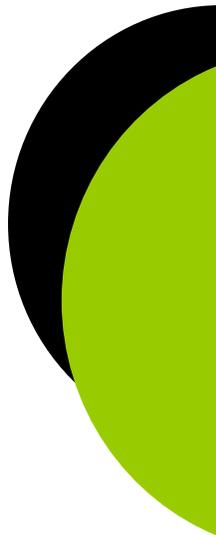
Beginning in 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required the City of Moore to regulate water quality within our creeks and drainage ways. A poorly maintained septic system can harm these bodies of water by leaking raw sewage into surface water runoff. Raw sewage contains high levels of nitrogen and bacteria, and when these contaminants are carried to our creeks and ponds by stormwater runoff, the result is water that can't support its usual habitat for life-resulting in dying fish and aquatic plants.

### Stormwater Quality-It's the Law

The Moore City Code calls adding a prohibited substance to the stormwater system an "illicit discharge". List of common illicit discharges

- Swimming Pool Water or Chemicals
- Laundry washwater or Dishwater
- Garbage or rubbish
- Wrecked or discarded vehicles, Appliances or equipment
- Yard Waste
- Household Hazardous Waste and Chemicals

Dumping any of these items to any street, drainage channel, drainage flume, pond, or creek is illegal. Even if a household product claims to be "environmentally friendly" or "biodegradable", it is still not safe or legal to drain to the city's stormwater system!



### Tips for Keeping your Private Septic System in Tip-Top Shape

- Have your septic tank checked by a professional every year
- Have your septic tank pumped every 3 to 5 years
- Don't put chemicals into your septic system. Household chemicals kill the good bacteria that help your septic system work.
- Keep any extra water off the drain field. Divert gutters away from the area.
- Always fix leaks as soon as possible.

### Report Pollution

If you see an illicit discharge take place in Moore, please let us know. Call 793-5052 to report a "stormwater violation", or log on to [www.cityofmoore.com/stormwatersavvy](http://www.cityofmoore.com/stormwatersavvy).

