



SAINT CHARLES  
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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Pollution Control for Residents

#### **Does stormwater go to a wastewater treatment plant?**

Storm sewers which drain the roadways and surrounding areas, including your yards, discharge directly to creeks and natural water courses. Runoff from rainstorms is not treated at a treatment plant.

#### **What is considered pollution and what is prohibited?**

Pollutants such as trash, auto fluids, soap, paint, yard waste, mud/soil and animal waste are prohibited from discharge to creeks or the storm sewer.

#### **Are grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste materials considered a pollutant?**

Yard waste placed or dumped in a storm drain or along a creek bank is an ordinance violation. This can increase the flooding problems as well as degrade our streams by decreasing the dissolved oxygen level or contributing to increased creek bank erosion. The City recommends mulching your lawn clippings and leaves, using them as mulch, or recycling them through yard waste services.

#### **Should I consider landscaping with native plants?**

Use of native plants and low-maintenance landscaping can reduce the use of fertilizer and watering requirements. Both of these can impact local storm sewers.

#### **What should I consider when landscaping my property?**

Weather conditions in our area can change rapidly. Be sure to cover any exposed soil while working on landscape projects for an extended period of time. Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to the directions. Not only will this save you money, but it helps protect area ditches, reservoirs, creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers. Over application can add to the nutrient levels in these waterways and is harmful to fish and other animals who depend on clean water for their health.

#### **Am I allowed to wash my vehicle in my driveway?**

You may wash your vehicle in your driveway. We strongly recommend using a biodegradable car wash soap. We also recommend washing on the grass or at a commercial carwash where the wastewater gets treated.

#### **Why should I pick up pet waste on my own property?**

The pathogens in pet waste are harmful to the health of humans, animals and the environment. Animal waste, when left on the ground, washes down storm drains and contaminates area creeks and rivers.

**How is pollution control enforced?**

The City of St. Charles has an ordinance which protects the health, welfare and safety of our residents and their property by improving aesthetics and decreasing reports of nuisance /pollution items. After reported, an investigation will occur and if the City deems the reported concern a violation of a City ordinance, the responsible party will be required to remove, correct and prevent further pollution from occurring.

**How can I support clean stormwater efforts?**

Be an advocate for our water resources and share your knowledge with neighbors. Join or create a watershed planning group. Participate in household hazardous waste pickup days. Support community organizations and events that protect water resources such as Clean Stream. Finally, use good pollution control practices at home.

**Who should I contact to report a source of stormwater pollution or a drainage problem?**

If you live within the city limits, contact the City of St. Charles Public Works Department at 636-949-3237 or via email at [public.works@stcharlescitymo.gov](mailto:public.works@stcharlescitymo.gov).