



FACT SHEET Preventing Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- **Pick up after your pet and dispose of pet waste with garbage that is going to a landfill.** Pet waste can be carried via runoff to our streams, rivers, and lakes. Pet waste contains nitrogen which can deplete oxygen in surface water and harm aquatic life.
- **Sweep driveways, sidewalks and roads.** Don't wash them down with water because the debris will enter our streams via storm drains. When you do that, you are adding pollutants to water in your watershed.
- **Vegetate bare spots in your yard and along stream banks.** Vegetation helps keep soil in place. Bare soil increases soil loss or erosion and the soil particles that are lost in erosion are transported to surface waters in your watershed.
- **Use fertilizers sparingly.** Excess fertilizer that flows into waterways and into the watershed and lake will encourage algal growth which can lead to taste and odor in drinking water. In Northwest Arkansas, excess algal growth in Beaver Lake has been identified as a cause for taste and odor episodes in drinking water.
- **Check your car for leaks and recycle motor oil and antifreeze when these fluids are changed.** Drivers also can avoid impacts from car wash runoff (detergents, grime, etc.) by using car wash facilities that recycle water or by washing cars on the lawn instead of on a driveway.
- **Households served by septic systems should have systems inspected and professionally pumped every three to five years.** Leaking septic systems can pollute groundwater and surface water sources, such as Beaver Lake, the source of most of the drinking water in Northwest Arkansas.
- **Developers should practice best management & low impact development techniques to control stormwater runoff.** This may include installing silt fences to prevent sediment runoff from sites during construction, conserving natural areas, using permeable pavement, and planting drought-resistant native species in landscaping.
- **Citizens can volunteer for stream restoration efforts, stream and lake clean-ups, stream team education, and citizen science activities, such as the annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake, where citizen scientists collect water samples and measure water transparency in Beaver Lake.** A list of upcoming events may be found at www.bwdh2o.org.
- **Homeowners can install rain barrels and rain gardens.** Rain barrels capture excess runoff from roofs. Positioned under a gutter of a home, a rain barrel will capture some stormwater runoff during rain events. Water may then be used to water the lawn and flowers. Rain gardens are landscaped depressions that collect runoff from a roof, driveway or yard. Rain gardens are low-maintenance and planted with native species. They allow rainwater to slowly percolate into the soil and recharge groundwater supplies while decreasing stormwater runoff into drainage systems. The result of using rain barrels and installing rain gardens is reduced flooding and erosion in local creeks and streams during storm events and more sustained flow during dry periods of the year.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater & www.epa.gov/nps)
Source: How To Build a Rain Barrel & NWA Rain Gardens: A How-To Guide (www.bwdh2o.org)

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About Beaver Water District

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to more than 250,000 people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. The District's mission is to serve our customers in the Benton and Washington County area by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all federal and state regulatory requirements in such quantities as meets their demands and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards. For more information, visit www.bwdh2o.org.