

What is Storm Water & How it Affects You.

Stormwater is simply water that falls onto the ground from rain or snow events. The water that does not soak into the ground is called stormwater runoff. As stormwater runs off lawns, roofs, driveways, parking lots, and roads, it can flow into our wetlands, streams, lakes, and the ocean and carry pollutants it picks up along the way. The pollutants include oil, grease, gasoline, lead & cadmium from the roads; pesticides, herbicides and animal waste from residential areas & farmlands; and dirt from construction sites, to name a few. Added to this list are items improperly disposed of into storm drains or on the ground.

All these contaminants end up in waterways, wetlands, ponds, lakes, and can impact shellfish beds, fish and animal habitat, recreational swimming, and even our drinking water.

To lessen pollution, we all need to do our part and change our habits. Your efforts along with your neighbors can make a difference.



Johnson County Partnership For Water Quality

<https://cleanwaterjohnsoncounty.wordpress.com/>

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City of Franklin 317-346-1151

City of Greenwood 317-887-5230

Town of Bargersville 317-422-5115

Town of Whiteland 317-535-5531

Town of Edinburgh 812-526-3512

Town of New Whiteland 317-535-4664

Johnson County Solid Waste Management District 317-738-2546

Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District 317-736-9540

Know where it flows!

Pet Waste Fact Sheet



Water Pollution

Sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced in recent years. Now, more than 60% of water pollution comes from things like runoff from washing cars, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and pet waste. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. So, believe it or not, the biggest source of water pollution today is not industry—it is actually households like yours. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water. And it starts with realizing that our sewers and storm systems are separate—what goes into storm drains flow directly into the environment, untreated.

What's the Problem With Pet Waste?

Pet waste is a health risk to pets and people, especially children. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in our rivers, lakes, and streams, the bacteria ends up in our fish and aquatic life. Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water with no treatment. In

addition to transferring harmful pathogens to our water, pet waste also leads to increased biological oxygen demand, thus reducing the oxygen content of the water and making it difficult for aquatic life to survive.



Facts and Figures

An average size dog dropping contains three billion fecal coliform bacteria.

In addition to fecal coliform, dogs can also be significant hosts of both *Giardia* and *Salmonella*. It was noted in a 1982 study of Baltimore, Maryland catchments that dog feces were the single greatest contributor of fecal coliform and fecal strep bacteria.

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, 41% of U.S. households include at least one dog. The association's statistics also show the growth in pet ownership: Americans owned 54.6 million dogs in 1996 and 68 million dogs in 2000.

Those numbers add up to a lot of kibble. If all dog owners also owned and used a pooper-scooper, there would not be a problem. But several studies have found that roughly 40% of Americans don't pick up their dog's feces.



What You Can Do

How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean?

Scoop it up and flush it down the toilet. This is the best option because then your community sewage treatment plant or your septic system treats the pet waste.

Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage.

Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep, put three to four inches of waste at the bottom, and cover it with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard and keep it away from vegetables gardens.

Know where it flows!