

Rural Landowners:

Buffer Strips are a strip of vegetation, usually native flowers and grasses, along a waterway that removes pollutants from runoff, reduces erosion and enhances wildlife habitat.



Buffers improve air quality and flood control.

Conservation buffers are a simple way for farmers and landowners to stay profitable while protecting your land. Buffers can

help prevent soil erosion, improve water quality by removing

sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides, protect buildings, roads, and livestock.

For more information on the different kinds of buffers that help reduce storm water pollution see the Clay County

SWCD at:

www.claycountymn.gov/615/Storm-Water-Pollution



For Site Locations and More Information on Storm Water Pollution Prevention Please contact:

Clay County Highway Department
2951 41 1/2 St. S.
Moorhead, MN 56560 (218) 299-5099

Clay County Resource Recovery Center
3322 15th Ave North
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-299-5016

claycountymn.gov

More information on preventing storm water pollution can be found at the following:

University of Minnesota Extension Office:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/>

North Dakota State University Extension Service:
<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/>

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us>



Storm Water Pollution Prevention



Minnesota



Clay County Highway Department

STORM WATER POLLUTION, HOW IT AFFECTS YOU, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT IT.

What Is Storm Water Pollution?

Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into storm sewers. These are the drains at the street corners or at low points on the sides of the streets. Collectively, the draining water is called storm water runoff and is a concern in the commercial and industrial sites as well as your neighborhood because of the pollutants this water carries.



What are common contributors of storm water pollution?

- Vehicle fluids such as oil, gas and antifreeze
- Not properly recycling hazardous wastes such as old paint, pesticides, solvents and batteries
- Street litter such as paper and plastic
- Soil from construction sites and exposed ground
- Pet waste left on the ground gets carried away by storm water, contributing harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses to our river

What You Can Do To Help

There are many things you as an individual can do to help prevent storm water pollution, and there are even more resources available to help aid you including:

Drop off your Hazardous Waste At The Clay County Hazardous Waste Sites

Items that are accepted: Latex and oil-based paints, stains, varnishes, adhesives, solvents, strippers, fuels, used motor oil, garden pesticides, lawn care products, solvent cleaners, polishers, drain and oven cleaners, automotive chemicals, solvent based aerosols, oil filters (car/pickup size only) residential fluorescent bulbs.

Items that are NOT accepted: Business waste, unidentified waste, empty containers, explosives, all types of batteries, agricultural pesticides, fire extinguishers/gas cylinders, medical waste, tires, appliances or electronics.



Car Care Tips

How can I affect storm water pollution by washing my car? According to Minnesota Water, it just how and where you wash it. If you wash your car on a paved driveway, street or parking lot, the dirty wash water runs across the pavement, into the storm sewer and ends up in our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. The wash water contains contaminants such as oil, grease, metals, detergents, and phosphorus that are either harmful to fish or cause excessive growth of aquatic plants and algae.



A few ways you can help ensure you are minimizing storm water impact:

- Choose a biodegradable and phosphate-free soap and use it sparingly.
- Wash your car on gravel or other pervious surface that can soak wash water.
- Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- Pour your bucket of wash water onto the lawn or down the sink when you're done, not on the driveway or street.