



THERE'S A FISH ON YOUR STREET !

The Hometown organization is stenciling Our Town's storm drains for the Our County storm water awareness program.

They're doing what?

Volunteers are stenciling a fish symbol with a "Dump No Waste" message next to storm drains that go to our local lakes and rivers.

But why?

Because storm drains flow directly to nearby rivers and streams, not to wastewater treatment plants. Your city street is really like waterfront property and everything rinsing off your roof, yard and driveway goes to the river. Many people are unaware of this important fact. Each year, people dump thousands of gallons of used oil, antifreeze and other wastes into storm drains. Stenciling will remind citizens to protect the river or lake from pollution that may kill fish, close beaches and increase weed and algae growth.

This pollution comes from where?

It comes from all of us! Rainwater runoff picks up street litter, yard waste, excess lawn fertilizers and pesticides, residue from oil leaks on streets and parking lots, and sediment from construction sites. All together, this adds up to more pollution than industry makes!

What can I do to help?

Its Simple! Dump nothing down the storm drain you wouldn't swim in or drink.

- Use less fertilizer on lawns
- Avoid pesticides
- Compost garden trimmings
- Recycle used oil
- Wash your car on the lawn not driveway or street
- Pick up pet wastes
- Don't litter
- Bring your leftover paints and pesticides to HazoHouse or Household Hazardous Waste collection days
- For more information call your local public works office at:

(555) 555 - 5555 Earthwater™
STENCILS 



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Here's More:

The flyer can be left blank on the back side for student messages or graphics.

Consider adding information about fish and wildlife in the local creek.

Consider adding information from students' water quality testing of the local stream or river or stormwater culvert outfalls.

If the receiving water is a drinking water source, address that and use stencils with the drinking water glass.

Add any local 1-800-number that citizens can call for recycling locations or household hazardous waste drop-offs.

Additional useful information to add:

Non-point source pollution has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as over 60% of the nation's water quality problems.

Rain or melting snow wash soil, litter, pet wastes, fertilizers leaves and grass clippings off the pavement and into your storm sewer.

Although each storm sewer may contribute only a small amount of pollution, the pollutants from hundreds of inlets around town add up to a big problem for local streams and lakes.

Fish and waterfowl may eat litter or plastic, or become entangled in it.

Pet and yard waste contain both bacteria and oxygen-consuming materials which lead to fish kills.

Homeowners often apply ,much more fertilizer than necessary for plant health.

In the U.S. alone, an estimated 200 million gallons of used motor oil are dumped on the ground, tossed in the trash to a landfill, or dumped down storm drains. That's more every month than a major oil tanker spill. Consider: just one quart of used motor oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of drinking water and spread a slick over the size of two football fields.