



## Storm Water and the Home/Garden

**Yard waste and household toxics** such as paints, solvents and pesticides often make their way into the City of Philomath storm sewer system and DO NOT GET TREATED before reaching the local waterways. These wastes pollute drinking water and make waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.

The following practices will help prevent storm water pollution:

**Household products** such as paints, paint thinners drain opener, motor oil, wood polishes, insecticides and herbicides, oven cleaners and many other general cleaners frequently get dumped on the ground or into the gutter, street or storm sewer. Instead of polluting our storm water, take these items to a household hazardous waste collection facility. Call Republic Services in Corvallis at 541-754-0444 for more information.

**Fertilizers and pesticides** are often carried into our storm sewers by sprinkler runoff. To minimize storm water pollution, use organic or nontoxic pesticides and fertilizers as directed, and keep them away from ditches, gutters and storm sewers. Store them in a covered area off the ground to prevent contact with water.

**Prevent Decaying yard and garden** organic materials from entering our storm sewer, such as grass, leaves, yard clippings, and pet waste, use up oxygen in nearby receiving waters and stress aquatic life. Prevent storm water pollution by not blowing, sweeping, raking, or hosing yard waste into the street, gutter, or storm sewer. Alternatively, leave grass clippings on your lawn after mowing or compost you clippings and yard waste. Pet waste should not be composted, but rather disposed of in the trash, flushed down a toilet, or buried in your yard to prevent the potential spread of diseases.



**Produce less yard waste** and save water by planting low-maintenance trees and shrubs. Also, conserve water and minimize unwanted runoff by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses or microspray systems to water vegetation.