







NO DUMPING!

DRAINS TO RIVER!







Most people think that water pollution is caused by big business and large industrial facilities. While this is partly true, a significant portion of water pollution is also caused by residents and small businesses. Chemicals, fertilizer, vehicle fluids, dirt, litter, and other pollutants on rooftops, driveways, lawns, sidewalks, and streets are washed into storm drains by rain and snow melt. Water that enters a storm drain is not treated and discharges into the river.

Inside the home, chemicals that people put down their sinks and drains aren't always removed at the wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater treatment plants are designed to remove solids, biodegradable materials, and harmful bacteria from waste. Dumping harsh chemicals, medications, or old paint down the drain can disrupt the system and/or contribute to water pollution.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

-  Anything that is on a street – from oil, antifreeze, leaky cars, to cigarette butts thrown out a car window. All these things get washed into storm drains.
-  Soil, grass clippings, fertilizer, pesticides, and leaves enter into the storm drains.
-  Storm drains flow directly into rivers. Currently, there is no treatment for rain water that washes off rooftops, driveways, lawns, sidewalks, and streets.
-  Chemicals and other pollutants that enter rivers and streams harm wildlife that live in and along the river, and cover up or destroy critical aquatic habitat.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP?

-  Fix leaky cars right away.
-  Keep soil, grass clippings and leaves out of the streets and gutters. Use fertilizers that are phosphorus free. Don't over fertilize. Use organic mulches like shredded bark or wood chips to control weeds in shrub beds.
-  DO NOT dump old oil or other automotive and household liquids into the storm drains. Residents can take them to the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility.
-  Participate in the River Keepers' Storm Drain Marking Program, to help prevent others from dumping into the storm drains.
-  DO NOT dump old paint or other chemicals down a sink or toilet (small quantities of antifreeze are ok). Instead take them to the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility.
-  Use household cleaners that don't contain phosphates and/or biodegradable.

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Clay County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2729 Highway 10 East
Moorhead, MN 56560
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www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/PlanEnvi/SWHHW.htm