

# WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS. AND IT HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE

Water from inside our homes goes to a wastewater facility for purification. But water from roofs, streets, and outdoor spigots goes untreated directly into storm drains – straight to our waterways – picking up all kinds of contaminants along the way!

## DID YOU KNOW

Illicit Discharges are unlawful acts of disposing, dumping, spilling, or emitting any substance other than stormwater or snowmelt into the stormsewer system.

## DID YOU KNOW

The amount of phosphorus in grass clippings from mowing your lawn just once can produce up to **100 lbs.** of unwanted algae if it ends up in our lakes and ponds.

## DID YOU KNOW

Leaf "litter" and landscape trash accounts for **56%** of phosphorus in urban stormwater, not to mention clogging storm drains, causing potential flooding, increasing debris in our waterways.

## DID YOU KNOW

Just one pound of fertilizer over-application on the average lawn can equate to **34.2 lbs.** of excess algae growth in streams and lakes.

## DID YOU KNOW

Fluids leaking from vehicles can constitute an illicit discharge. Leaking vehicles should be fixed as soon as possible or a drip pan should be used under the vehicle to ensure fluids do not get transported to our rivers and lakes.

## DID YOU KNOW

If dog owners don't clean up after their pooches, **390 million pounds** of poop can wash into our waterways every year just in Colorado! Dog waste contains 10% phosphates and 2% nitrates, contributing to algae growth.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Algae looks bad, smells bad, degrades water quality and can be harmful to your health.

Too many nutrients in streams and lakes cause rapid growth of algae.

As algae decays, it uses up oxygen in the water, leading to a decline in our drinking water quality –

and makes it more expensive to treat.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Dispose Properly



- Compost or bag your leaves and lawn clippings
- Don't blow leaves or lawn clippings into the street
- Sweep up any spills or overspray of fertilizers on sidewalks or streets

### Fertilize Efficiently



- Always follow the manufacturer's application recommendations. More isn't better!
- Fertilizing in the early fall promotes healthy root systems – leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants

### Be Car Smart



- Fix leaks as soon as possible
- If working on vehicle put a tarp down to contain spills
- Put a drip pan under leaking vehicle until it can be fixed

### Pick It Up & Pitch It



- Clean up dog waste and dispose properly

**Report Illicit Discharges - 970-962-2761**