

# 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

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

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

**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.**

**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.**

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

## 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**