



# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



## Why is it a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a creek, river or lake. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for drinking water, swimming, boating, and fishing.

If it gets on the ground, it can get into the water. No one wants to drink from or swim in polluted water.



## Effects of Pollution

- Hazardous household products like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil can poison aquatic life.
- Polluted stormwater can affect drinking water sources.
- Sediment clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow; it can destroy aquatic habitat.
- Litter, including plastic bags, cans, bottles, and cigarette butts, washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Nutrients applied in excess cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low levels of dissolved oxygen.
- Bacteria and pathogens washed into swimming areas can create health hazards.



**PLEASE – Do your part to keep our creeks and rivers clean. Storm drain water flows directly into them.**



## Things you can do to help on and off campus.

- Never pour anything down storm drains.
- Check car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
- Wash vehicles on the lawn or wash bays & never wash detergents, oils, and greases into streets or storm drains.
- Pick up litter and debris; keep work areas clean.
- Cover storage containers and dumpsters.
- Keep oils, solvents, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, and other hazardous materials under cover and away from the street and storm drains.
- Prevent soil erosion by seeding bare spots in your yard.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
- Mulch or bag yard debris.
- Pick up after your pet.



### **Auburn University At Montgomery Public Safety**

Questions about AUM's Stormwater Management Plan

Email: [kjone108@aum.edu](mailto:kjone108@aum.edu)

To report a concern: Call Campus Police 334-244-3424