

Stormwater Pollution

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground surface and impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roads, sidewalks, and rooftops instead of being absorbed into the ground.

Why is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

As stormwater runoff flows over impervious surfaces, it collects pollutants such as trash, nutrients, chemicals, and sediment. This untreated runoff then flows into stormwater management systems, or directly into rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, or coastal waters. The runoff acts as a transport mechanism carrying pollutants into the waterbodies we use for swimming, drinking, and fishing.

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow.
- Excess nutrients from fertilizers and feces can cause algae blooms.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can create health hazards.
- Litter and debris can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil can poison animals and people.



The EPA estimates that stormwater runoff accounts for 65% of pollution in rivers.



Save the Bay!

When stormwater runoff flows over the ground, it can carry litter, chemicals, sediment, and other pollutants to the Potomac River, Mattawoman Creek, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Local Resources

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
410 Severn Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403
www.allianceforthebay.org

Chesapeake Bay Program
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 112
Annapolis, MD 21403
www.chesapeakebay.net

Maryland's Stormwater Management Program
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230
www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/StormwaterManagementProgram

Indian Head Environmental Sustainability Committee
4195 Indian Head Hwy
Indian Head, MD 20640
<http://www.townofindianhead.org/>

Environmental Division
NAVFAC Washington, PWD South Potomac
IH Stormwater Program Manager
William Fabey
3972 Ward Road, Suite 101
Indian Head, MD 20640-5157
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Naval Support Facility Indian Head
Environmental Division
Stormwater Pollution Prevention



Report Spills and Illicit Discharges to the emergency line at (301) 744-4333. Non-emergency concerns or inquiries contact Public Affairs at (866) 359-5540.

How You Can Help! At Home, Work, Anywhere!

- Don't litter or Illegally dump! Pick up trash or report it to the base Environmental Division.
- Practice Spill Prevention techniques
- Properly dispose of chemicals and oils. NEVER DUMP ANYTHING DOWN STORM DRAINS.
- Wash your car at a car wash or on your lawn instead of on a paved surface.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Have your gutters discharge to vegetated or grassed areas, not paved surfaces.
- Check your car for oil leaks!
- Use water-based paints and clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.
- Consider other ways to reduce your overall pesticides/fertilizer footprint such as eating certified organic food.
- Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Consider using porous/permeable pavers when building patios and walkways.
- Clean up oil and chemical spills upon discovery.



Take Action! Build a Rain Garden

1. Choose a location - Look at your topography, pick a low spot that naturally collects runoff, is 5'-15' away from your home/any building, and is free of tree roots, utilities, etc.
2. Call Miss Utility before digging - Dig safely, call Miss Utility at 811.
3. Test the soil infiltration - If infiltration is too low, water will pool or runoff.
4. Size the rain garden - Base the size on the amount of runoff, infiltration rate, and garden depth.
5. Construct - Excavate, fill with soil media mix, choose and plant your vegetation (native plants are always your best option).
6. Maintain - Rain gardens require about as much maintenance as a standard landscaped bed such as weeding, watering, and raking mulch.



Rain gardens can remove up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediments from rainwater.

For more information visit: <http://www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org/take-action/structural-bmps/rain-gardens>

Stormwater Management at Naval Support Facility Indian Head

Naval Support Facility Indian Head utilizes a variety of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts from runoff and we're adding more with every major construction project.

What we're doing at NSFIH

- Retention Areas/Ponds
- Detention Basins
- Bioretention Areas
- Check Dams
- Green Roofs
- Underground Storage Facilities
- Swales
- Sand Filters
- Dry Wells
- Infiltration Trenches
- Velocity and Volume Control Structures
- Permeable Pavers and Concrete

