

STORM SEWERS

Storm sewers consist of the drains and pipes in streets and parking lots. They collect and transport stormwater runoff. Storm drain systems do not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into local waterways, so everything that enters the storm drain system also goes directly into local waters, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

SANITARY SEWERS

Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing, such as toilets, sinks, washing machines, and floor drains. The sewers transport wastewater to a sewage treatment plant, which removes pollutants from the wastewater before it is discharged into local waterways.

ILLEGAL DUMPING?

Improper disposal or dumping is illegal.

City Code (Title 11, Ch. 13, Sec 11-13-2) states: It shall be unlawful for any person to dump any waste on any property, in any waters or in any sanitary sewer or stormwater system, except as authorized by law or applicable permit.

To report illegal dumping, contact Alex311.



City of Alexandria
Department of Transportation &
Environmental Services,
Stormwater Management Division
2900-B Business Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314
alexandriava.gov/stormwater
703.746.4311

LAWN CARE



Best Management
Practices for Lawn Care
Companies

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Pollution Prevention Practices

- Never dump yard waste in streams or storm drains.
- Blow or sweep grass clippings into yards and off streets, sidewalks, and driveways where it can wash into storm inlets.
- Leave grass clippings and yard waste on the yard, compost it, or bag it for collection.
- Replant bare areas to prevent soil erosion.
- Use native plants for landscaping which require less maintenance.



What's the big deal?



Everything washed or dumped into the storm drains flows untreated into the local streams, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay. Polluted water can kill fish and aquatic life, harm wildlife, kill vegetation, pollute drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas hazardous.

FEED THE SOIL, NOT THE LAWN.

- Apply the correct amount of fertilizer by performing a soil test through the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Sample boxes can be picked up at the local Cooperative Extension office.
- Only apply fertilizer once, if needed. Fall is preferred.
- Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides near a stream, river, or waterway.
- Avoid applying fertilizers and pesticides immediately before it rains.
- Always sweep up excess fertilizer that spills over onto sidewalks, driveways, or streets.

