



NOTICE OF STORMWATER PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that Poudre School District has implemented a stormwater program as required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The program requires that the school district implement a program that educates the public and prevents water pollution from district sites. Concerns, questions, and input are welcome and should be directed to facilities@psdschools.org.

What is stormwater and why is a program important?

Stormwater is runoff generated from rain, hail, and snowmelt events that flows over land or impervious surfaces, such as parking lots and building rooftops. This runoff may go into storm drains located in and around schools and goes untreated into natural waterways. The stormwater runoff can pick up pollutants like chemicals, oils, and trash that could be harmful to rivers, lakes, and streams – the waters used for fishing, swimming, and recreation.

The harmful effects of runoff include:

- a. Sediment – reduces water clarity, destroys aquatic habitats, impedes aquatic plant growth
- b. Bacteria – human and animal waste (pets and wildlife) add bacteria and pathogens to runoff and, in excess, cause illness and can result in closing swim areas and limited recreational use due to toxic algal blooms
- c. Oils, chemicals – alter water chemistry and diminish water quality which negatively impacts aquatic organisms;
 - a. antifreeze harms kidney in humans and animals and can be lethal to pets,
 - b. detergents contain phosphates which also causes algae growth
 - c. phosphorous and nitrogen from fertilizers increase algae growth
 - d. oils and grease can form a film over water and make it difficult for aquatic animals and plants to breath
- d. Trash and Debris – these pollutants can choke or suffocate wildlife, toxins in litter can kill fish, and birds, decaying litter can reduce oxygen levels and kill aquatic animals and plants
- e. Nutrients – excess nutrients cause algae overgrowth which can be toxic to humans and pets, nutrients also reduce water oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- f. Hazardous materials/wastes – paints, solvents, and insecticides poison aquatic life which can result in human or animal illnesses from eating diseased fish or ingesting pollute water

Actions that staff and community members can take to reduce the harmful effects of stormwater

- a. Regularly pick up trash and debris and place it in trash cans.
- b. Do not overfill outdoor waste receptacles.
- c. Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.
- d. Maintain vehicles so oils, grease and antifreeze do not leak onto roadways and parking lots.

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- e. Wash vehicles at commercial car washes to prevent contaminants from getting into storm drains.
- f. Apply fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly and according to label instructions to prevent run off into storm drains. Do not apply these chemicals before rainstorms or heavy watering.
- g. Compost or mulch lawn clippings. Do not sweep or blow clippings into streets.
- h. Do not wash furniture, trash cans or other materials in the parking lots. Do not pour water from carpet or floor cleaning equipment onto parking lots. Use approved mop sinks or floor drains for these activities.
- i. Stencil or otherwise mark all storm drains.
- j. Chemicals and other hazardous wastes should be disposed of or recycled according to local, state and federal guidelines.
- k. When storing chemicals outside, make sure lids are closed and containers have secondary containment in case of leaks or spills.
- l. Use dry clean-up methods for spills - never hose down a spill or leak.
- m. Stay with vehicles during fueling and do not overfill tanks.
- n. Use proper management controls during construction and renovation projects to prevent runoff into storm drains.
- o. Assure storm water inlet inspections are being implemented and documented.
- p. Report spills, illegal dumping, or suspicious activities or materials near storm drains immediately by calling 970-490-3333.