

# Sustaining our Environment through Storm Water Management - We're all Connected.

Division of Engineering  
City of Wooster

**DIRT IN THE DRAIN**  
TURTLES COMPLAIN

**WHEN IT RAINS IT DRAINS**

**Oil & Water**  
Please Don't Mix!

Stormwater Management Responsibilities

- CITY ORDINANCE 925 - STORM DRAINAGE ENFORCEMENT
- SITE DEVELOPMENT MANUAL IMPLEMENTATION
- EPA STORMWATER DISCHARGE COMPLIANCE
- OHIO DRAINAGE LAW INTERPRETATION



**What is stormwater runoff?**

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

**Why is stormwater runoff a problem?**

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

**The effects of pollution**

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disintegrate the fish, ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.


