

## “Keep It Clean, We All Live Downstream”

*Remember, stormwater flows directly to our creeks, streams, and rivers untreated. Everything that goes down a storm drain ends up in our water supply. Trash, grass clippings, leaves, paint, household chemicals, fertilizers, motor oil, sedimentation, and pet waste all have detrimental effects on water quality. By following the 8 simple guidelines in this brochure you can greatly improve the quality of our water. Help us in our mission to Keep It Clean!*



*Only 1 % of all the water on the Earth's surface is fresh water available for our use. Let's Keep It Clean!!*



## City of Belmont Stormwater Management

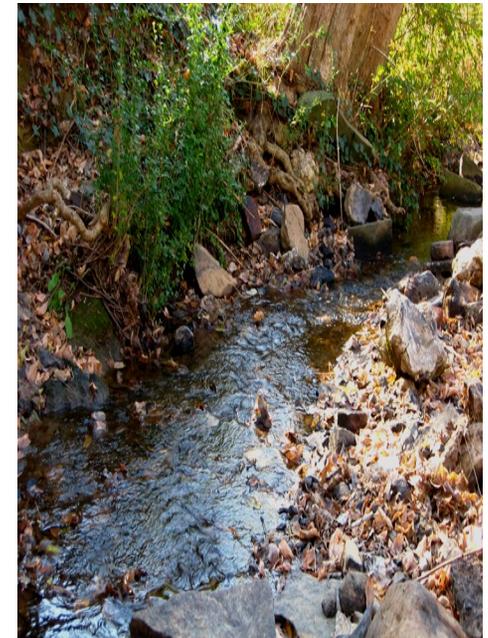
▶ City of Belmont  
Stormwater Management

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## 8 things you can do to help protect our water

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**Stormwater, what is it exactly?** Stormwater is simply rainwater that runs off of impervious surfaces such as buildings, roads, parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks. The more impervious surfaces we develop, the more runoff we create. **So where does stormwater go if it runs off of impervious**

*Retention ponds are used to help manage stormwater runoff*



**surfaces and doesn't soak into the ground?**

Stormwater flows directly into the stormwater system, picking up everything in its path. It goes **untreated** to our creeks and streams, which

lead to either the Catawba or South Fork River. The stormwater system is comprised of storm drains, catch basins, pipes, culverts, ditches, grass swales, and ponds. All of these structures work together to manage the increased flows of stormwater runoff. You may be asking yourself, "What am I supposed to do about stormwater and its effect on our water?" **Clean water begins with you**, and here are 8 things you can do to help protect our water!

1. **Grass Clippings and Leaves.** These can clog the stormwater system causing property flooding. Excess yard waste in the creeks and streams can cause algae blooms which deplete oxygen in the waterways and cause fish kills. Bag your clippings and leaves and place on curb for pick up. You can also mulch and compost yard waste, then apply to lawns and flowerbeds as a natural fertilizer. DO NOT dump yard waste into storm drains or onto creek banks.

2. **Washing Your Vehicle.** Go to a commercial carwash; the dirty water is sent to a waste water treatment facility or is recycled on site. Wash your car on your lawn where the grass and soil act as a natural filtering system for the soap and dirt. It will not harm the grass.
3. **Maintain Your Vehicle.** Make sure your vehicle is not leaking oil and fluids onto the roadways. When it rains those same leaking fluids are being washed into our streams and water supply untreated. Used motor oil should be taken to the nearest oil recycling center. Most auto parts stores and full-service gas stations accept used motor oil to be recycled. DO NOT dump used oil and automotive chemicals into the storm drains. Just one quart of used oil will pollute 250,000 gallons of water.
4. **Hazardous Household Materials.** Paints, cleaners, and other household chemicals often contain toxins, heavy metals, and nutrients. When these pollutants get into our water supply they impact water quality, wildlife, and human health. Read all labels carefully and use products properly. Use non-toxic product alternatives. Dispose of all HHM's properly. DO NOT pour down storm drains or household drains. Just one gallon of liquid soap will pollute 200,000 gallons of water.
5. **Correct Erosion Problems.** Sedimentation impacts aquatic life, habitat and water quality. Reseed bare spots in your lawn. Plant deep rooted shrubs and trees to help filter pollutants in runoff and stabilize the soil. Collect dirt and sediment off of driveways, and walkways. DO NOT sweep or hose it away.
6. **Use Fertilizers Properly.** Fertilizers contain nitrogen and phosphorous, two major catalysts in the creation of algae blooms in our water supply. Algae blooms deplete the oxygen necessary for fish and other aquatic life to survive. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to serve as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner. DO NOT fertilize your lawn before a rain event; the fertilizer just gets washed away. Use drop spreaders instead of broadcast spreaders for more precise application. Keep fertilizers off of driveways, sidewalks, and streets.

7. **DO NOT Litter.** Litter is not aesthetically pleasing and can cause clogs in storm drains, ditches, and pipes, which lead to street and property flooding. Always dispose of litter properly. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle whenever possible.
8. **Pet Waste.** Clean up after your pet. When it rains, pet waste is washed down the storm drains and into our water supply untreated. Pet waste contains bacteria, viruses, and parasites harmful to human health. Use a scooper or plastic grocery bag to clean up after your pet. Be sure to seal the bag before putting it in the trash.



*Oil and trash in a local stream that flows directly to the Catawba River*

Remember, clean water begins with you! These 8 simple guidelines can greatly improve the quality of water we, and our neighbors, rely on.

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