

## Common Runoff Pollutants

While there are many potential pollutants that can contribute to water pollution, the most common pollutants are:

- Grass clippings and leaves
- Lawn applications (fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides)
- Pet Waste
- Leaking automotive fluids, such as oil, gasoline and antifreeze
- Household products
- Soil erosion caused by bare or disturbed ground

*Proper disposal of these pollutants improve water quality, promote healthy fish and plant life, and reduce public health hazards.*

# Meridian Metropolitan District



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## Meridian Metropolitan District

### Colorado's Stormwater Program



*Protecting our Water*

Phone: 303.790.0345

## What are the responsibilities of homeowners, contractors, and developers?

### What is stormwater and where does it come from?

Land development creates impervious areas such as roads, roof tops, parking areas and sidewalks which prevent rainfall or snowmelt from soaking into the soil, thus causing stormwater runoff. This runoff can exceed the capacity of the existing natural drainage systems. As a result, natural drainages are often altered to rapidly collect runoff and convey it away (using curb and gutter, enclosed storm sewers and lined channels). The stormwater runoff is then discharged to downstream waters such as streams, reservoirs and lakes.

**What you can do to help:** Take the following steps to protect stormwater quality after development is complete.

- Clean up vehicle spills. Pick up pet waste and put these items in the trash.
- Limit the amount of impervious surface on your property.

- Use porous paving surfaces such as wood decking, open-celled bricks, and concrete pavers that allow water to soak into the ground.
- Where possible, direct runoff from impervious surfaces to vegetated areas.
- Allow thick vegetation or “buffer strips” to slow runoff and soak up pollutants.
- Shovel snow onto grass/landscaped areas.
- Plant drought tolerant or native species where appropriate.
- Aerate your lawn.
- Drain roof gutters away from the foundation, but onto grass or toward landscaping.
- Avoid over fertilizing lawns.
- Sweep up litter and debris from driveways instead of hosing debris into gutter and/or storm drain.
- Call your contract waste management company or 1-800-HHW-PKUP for disposal of household chemicals such as paint or oil.

**Obtain a Permit.** If your project will have more than one acre of disturbed ground, you are required to obtain a Construction Activity Permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Detailed permit information can be found at the following Web link:

*<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/wqcdpmt.html>*

**During construction or remodeling:** Please take the following steps to protect stormwater quality and quantity:

- Replant bare areas quickly.
- Use erosion control blankets.
- Cover piles of dirt.
- Use silt fences to prevent sediment transport.

Remember . . . sediment is the main pollutant in our surface water. Please follow proper erosion and sediment control practices to keep soil on site.