What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off surfaces such as roads, buildings, sidewalks or compacted ground. It can drain directly into streams, rivers and lakes by traveling over these surfaces and through storm drains. These drains, commonly called storm sewers, should not be confused with sanitary sewers that transport wastewater to a treatment plant before discharging to surface waters. Storm water entering storm sewers does not receive any treatment before it flows to surface waters such as lakes and streams.

What is the problem?

As communities grow, they often experience more storm-water problems due to their increasing impervious areas. Impervious areas reduce the amount of rainwater that can naturally infiltrate into the soil. This causes an increase in the volume and rate of stormwater. It can lead to more frequent and severe flooding, stream bank erosion, and potential damages to public and private property and water quality.

As stormwater drains to surface waters, pollutants are collected, including trash, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste (viruses and bacteria) and other chemicals. These contaminants can cause public health risks with negative impacts to drinking water sources, recreational waters and aquatic life.

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Save our waterways!

For more information visit VHCC's stormwater webpage at: https://www.vhcc.edu/faculty-staff/procedures

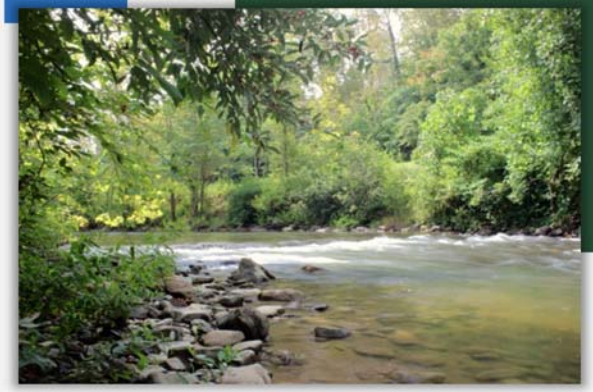
To **report** a suspected or potential non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain, please report using the contact information below:

Superintendent Buildings & Grounds

Phone: 276-739-2510
Email: enunley@vhcc.edu







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Stormwater



Stormwater Pollutants

Pollutants are introduced to stormwater runoff from a variety of sources and activities, including:

- Sediment from construction sites and erosion in areas lacking stabilization.
- Pesticides from pest maintenance.
- Bacteria from pet wastes and septic systems.
- Nutrients from lawn fertilizer.
- Oil and grease from car leaks, gas stations and industrial areas.
- Road salt and sand from snow and ice control applications.
- Carelessly discarded trash.
- Illicit (non-stormwater) connections to storm sewers.
- Illegally dumped pollutants.
- Leachable and erodible materials improperly stored and exposed to rain.

Steps to Reduce Pollution

We can each reduce stormwater pollution with the following steps:

- ✓ Not dumping anything in the storm drain or onto surfaces draining to the storm drain.
- ✓ Washing our cars over lawn or gravel areas or at a commercial carwash.
- ✓ Keeping our cars well-maintained to reduce fluid leaks.
- ✓ Throwing trash and cigarette butts in the garbage.
- ✓ Using pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- ✓ Minimizing runoff by not over-watering our lawns and gardens.
- ✓ Picking up pet waste.
- ✓ Not draining our pools, spas, or fountains to a storm drain.
- ✓ Keeping our septic systems well-maintained to prevent leaks.



"Stormwater is impacted by the behaviors and activities of individuals …"

- Environmental Protection Agency

VHCC Stormwater Program

VHCC implements a stormwater program to reduce stormwater pollution to the maximum extent practicable. The program uses an iterative process to develop and implement a variety of best management practices to address six focus areas, including:

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater issues;
2. Public involvement and participation to engage the public in pollution prevention activities;
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination to prevent pollutant discharges from the storm sewer;
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control that ensures proper practices are used during construction;
5. Post-construction stormwater management to treat runoff from developed areas; and
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping practices.