

Residential runoff is a major contributor to stormwater pollution.

To keep water entering the storm drain clean, follow these simple guidelines at home and work:

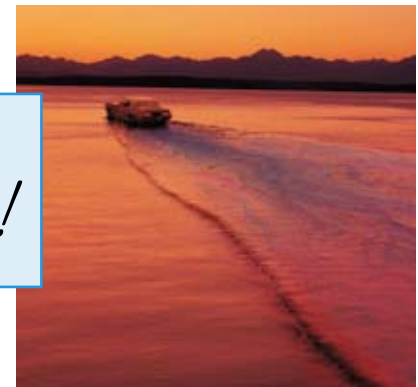
- ✓ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- ✓ Repair auto leaks.
- ✓ Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil, etc.), and batteries at designated collection or recycling locations.
- ✓ Clean up pet waste and throw it in the garbage.
- ✓ Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
- ✓ Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas, you'll also conserve water. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- ✓ Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paint.
- ✓ Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.



*Don't feed the Storm Drain*

remember . . .

*Only Rain Down the Drain!*



## Site Management : Commercial, Industrial and Construction

### Commercial & Industrial Runoff

All non-stormwater discharges are prohibited from entering the storm drain system.

These discharges include, but are not limited to:

- Wash water from concrete, plaster, sand or any waste water from cleaning tools.
- Job site sediment.
- Trash and debris around dumpsters, leakage from dumpsters.
- Cleaning and rinsing of mop water in a drain other than the sewer.

### Runoff from Construction

Most construction projects are required to implement an effective combination of erosion and sediment control and waste material management.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Dust control
- Sediment control
- Off-site tracking
- Materials pollution control
- Waste management and pollutant control

**The Issue:** Contaminates in Stormwater Runoff  
Pollute Our Water Sources

## Stormwater Quiz: True or False?

■ **Biodegradable soap is safe.** False.

Some biodegradable soap contains phosphates which help the algae population to grow rapidly. This leads to the death of aquatic plants and starves fish of oxygen. Degreasers can strip fish of oils causing scales to break apart.

■ **Pet waste is natural.** False.

Pet waste contains nitrates and bacteria. If leached into surface water it reduces oxygen and changes nutrient levels endangering aquatic life.

■ **Yard clippings are natural and degrade in water.** False.

Contamination from pesticides and nitrates on the clippings can contaminate rivers. Pipes become clogged and can cause local flooding.

■ **Cigarette butts biodegrade.** False.

Cigarette butts are not biodegradable. They harm our ecosystem and contain more than 165 chemicals.



A wastewater system and a stormwater system are not the same.

■ Water and waste from sinks and toilets travels to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and filtered.

■ Stormwater systems carry water that flows into gutters from driveways and streets directly to the river, this water is not treated.

**Anything that enters a stormwater sewer system is discharged, untreated into the water used for swimming, for fishing and for drinking.**

■ There are many pollutants that enter storm water systems.

Some common contaminants include: cigarette butts, yard debris, motor oil, pesticides, brake dust, pet waste, paint and household chemicals.

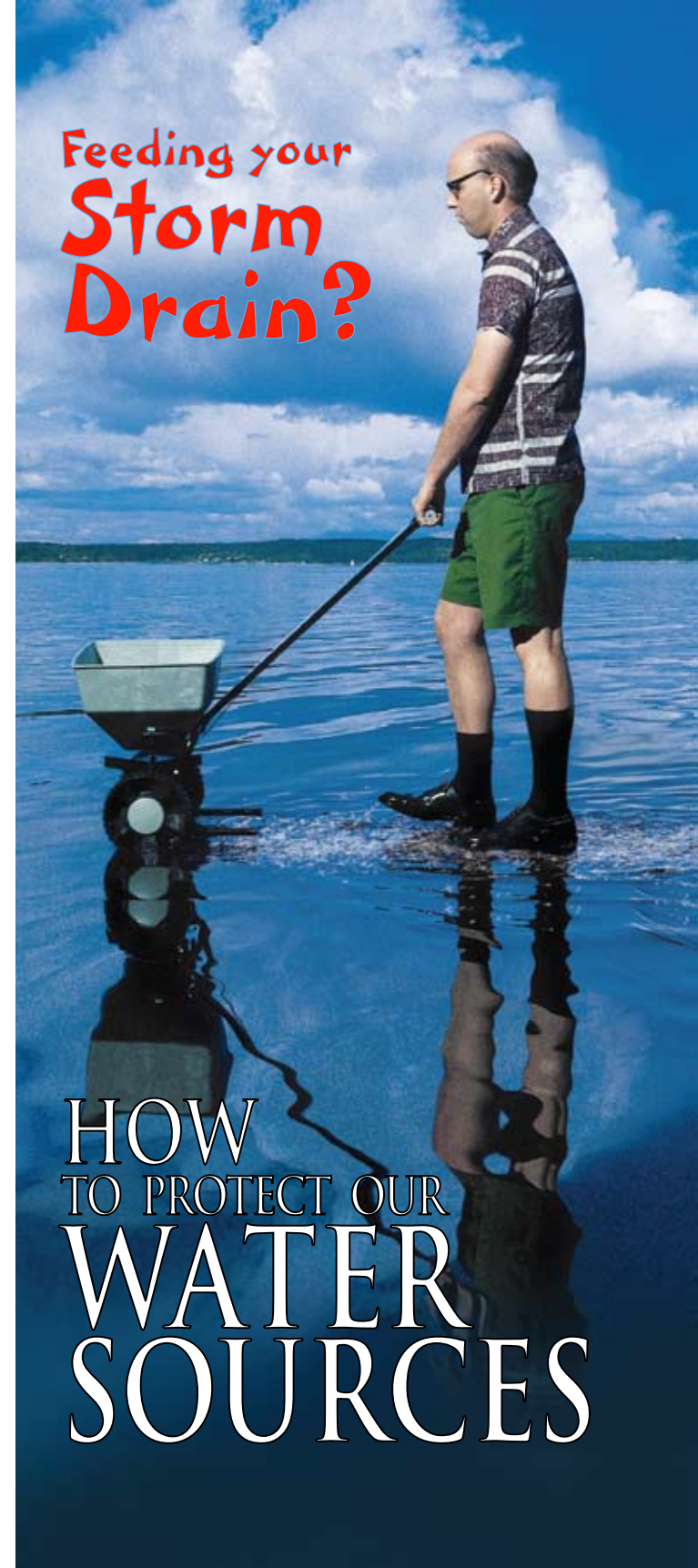
Rain takes oil and grit left by cars and sprinklers wash pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers from our garden and lawns into the storm water system.

Detergents, oils and grease from washing the car make runoff dirty.

■ The effects of pollutants on our water can be harmful.

Polluted runoff can have harmful effects on sources for drinking water, recreational use and wildlife. It is important to keep runoff free from pollutants.

Feeding your  
**Storm  
Drain?**



HOW  
TO PROTECT OUR  
**WATER  
SOURCES**



**THE CITY OF  
VICTORIA**

Department of Public Works  
Stormwater Management Program  
(361) 485-3400