

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Stormwater is an issue that affects all of us—and we all play an important role. Howard County is committed to reducing stormwater runoff, and we need your help. You can help improve the quality of your community waterways by adopting stormwater management practices that help stormwater absorb into the ground, reuse it, or control it. Check out this brochure to learn about simple ways that you can help protect our local water!

## FAST FACTS

- Over 1,000 tons of debris is kept out of streams each year by street sweeping in Howard County
- Almost 80 percent of rainwater runs off a lawn—it does NOT soak into the ground
- Each day in Howard County, over 6,200 lbs of dog waste is generated, polluting our streams as part of stormwater runoff.



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# 7 Things You Can Do To Improve Water Quality



CLEAN WATER  
CLEAN HOWARD  
CLEAN WORLD

# How You Can Help

1. **Slow The Flow**- Redirect rain-spouts away from hard surfaces (like driveways and sidewalks).
2. **Stash The Trash**- Pick up and properly dispose of trash whenever possible so it does not get washed into our streams.
3. **Refrain From The Drain**- Storm drains are for water only. Never use them to dispose of pet waste, grass clippings, motor oils, or trash.
4. **Scoop The Poop**- Pick up pet waste with a plastic bag and dispose of it along with your household trash in order to keep our streams waste-free.
5. **Enable The Label**- Use fertilizers as directed. Over-fertilization does not help your plants and increases nitrogen and phosphorous levels in local streams.
6. **Quash The Wash**- Use a commercial car wash whenever possible. If you must wash your car at home, try to park it on a grassy area or use phosphate-free car detergents.
7. **Landfill The Pill**- Dispose of your medications in the household trash--do not flush them down the toilet. Our wastewater treatment plants cannot remove the chemicals from medications.

