

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!



Storm drains in your neighborhood or around your business are labeled as a reminder that anything we put in a storm drain goes directly, untreated, into the nearest waterway.



Please help **keep drains clear**, **prevent pollution** and **reduce nutrients** going into our creeks and Jordan Lake.

Follow the tips on the back of this card so that North Carolina waters – from Chapel Hill to the Atlantic – can be cleaner and healthier.



Report Pollution or Erosion:
Stormwater Management Division
(919) 969-RAIN (969-7246)
www.townofchapelhill.org/stormwater

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REDUCE NUTRIENTS IN RUNOFF

Nitrogen and phosphorous occur naturally in soil, but also come from fertilizers, soaps, pet waste, sewage, and even vehicle exhaust. Excessive nutrients in water can cause algae blooms, making drinking water difficult and expensive to treat. When algae die, water is depleted of oxygen, leading to fish kills and uninhabitable conditions for many aquatic organisms. Some algae are toxic, which can lead to public health issues for people and wildlife.

What to do:

- ▶ Test soils before applying fertilizer and apply only what you need. Never apply before a rain storm. Sweep up any that gets on the street or sidewalk.
- ▶ When you walk the dog, scoop the poop!
- ▶ If you have a septic tank, have it pumped every 3-5 years.
- ▶ Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash where soapy water gets treated before disposal. OR wash your car in a place where grass will absorb runoff. Pour left over wash water into your landscaping or down the toilet. Don't pour it down the storm drain!
- ▶ Prevent –and report- erosion! Sediment binds nutrients and is the #1 pollutant by volume of North Carolina waters.
- ▶ Do not rake or blow leaves or yard waste (grass clippings, branches, pine needles) into the street or storm drains. Leaves and yard waste can clog drains and add excessive nutrients to creeks and lakes.
- ▶ For directions on how to prepare yard waste for collection, call the Town of Chapel Hill Public Works Department at 968-2796 or log onto their website at www.townofchapelhill.org/publicworks
- ▶ Prevent sewer line clogs and sewage overflows by pouring/putting all oils, fats and grease into the TRASH, not down the drain. Wipe greasy pans with paper towels before washing dishes.



PREVENT POLLUTION

Nothing should be placed, washed or poured into storm drains.

Orange County has a comprehensive recycling and **household hazardous waste** collection program for paints, automotive fluids, and other toxic wastes. Call Orange Community Recycling at (919) 968-2788 or log onto their website at: www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling for proper disposal methods and collection schedules.