



Loudoun County Storm Drain Marking Program

Why mark storm drains?

Storm drains prevent flooding of roads and neighborhoods by carrying rain and snowmelt away from streets and sidewalks. Unlike water from our household taps and tub, water flowing into storm drains is not treated at the sewage treatment plant. Storm drains are connected to your neighborhood stormwater pond or sometimes directly to our streams. Trash, pet waste, motor oil, paint and other materials dumped or washed into storm drains pollute creeks, rivers and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Markers on each storm drain remind us to keep storm drains and our streams clean. The Loudoun County Dept. of General Services (DGS) can provide you with the materials to mark the drains in your neighborhood.

What can you do to protect your local stream and Bay?

✓ Volunteer to lead a storm drain marking project in your neighborhood.

The storm drain markers serve as reminders to us that anything we put in a storm drain goes directly into our streams! All of our local streams drain to the Potomac River, a regional treasure. The Potomac River is also an important drinking water supply and drains to the Chesapeake Bay. Did you know that Leesburg gets 99% of its drinking water from the Potomac River? Help keep our streams clean and safe for our children, pets, aquatic creatures and other wildlife!

✓ Make sure nothing goes down the storm drain except water.

Adopt your local storm drain and keep it clear of trash and debris, dispose of pet waste in your trash can or toilet, and recycle used motor oil at your local gas station. Never enter a storm drain even if your car keys fall into one (DGS can help you retrieve those as well).

✓ Practice Bay-friendly lawn care.

Conduct a soil test to determine fertilizer deficiencies and check the forecast before applying chemicals, including fertilizers, to your lawn. It is easy to grasscycle and compost yard debris. Using Virginia's native plants will reduce watering and chemical needs in your landscape. They grew up here, just like you!

✓ Report storm drain dumping.

It is a violation of State and Federal laws to discharge anything that is not a permissible substance into the storm sewer systems without a permit. The dumping of paint, motor oil, grease, lawn chemicals, trash and other materials into the storm drain system is strictly prohibited. When washed into storm drains, these pollutants will damage or kill plants, animals, and marine life and can make humans ill. Debris can also cause storm drains to become blocked, causing them to overflow onto adjacent streets and properties.

If you witness questionable discharge into storm drains, you are encouraged to report this activity. You can report such activity by calling the Loudoun County Stormwater **Hotline at 703-777-0117**.

