



Did you know...

Water flowing over streets and other surfaces picks up sediment and pollutants and carries them into the storm sewer. Storm drains are flood control systems designed to carry rainwater from streets and properties in order to prevent flooding after a heavy rain.

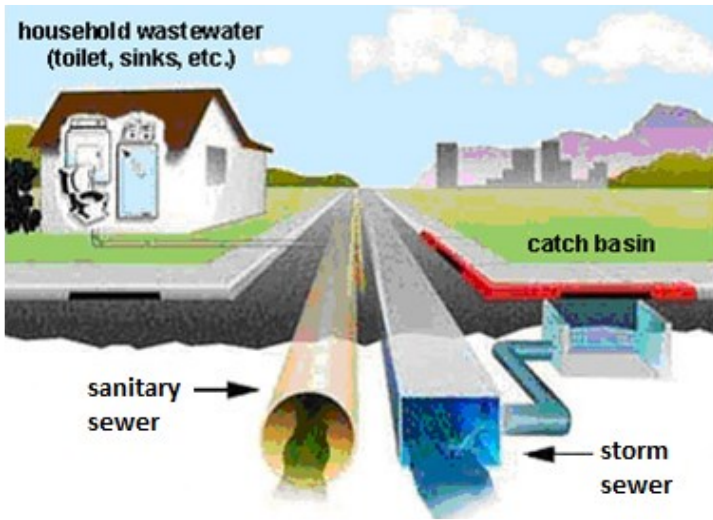
Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals, and any other pollutant as it flows over roads and lawns.


GILBERT
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Storm Water Pollution Prevention: Auto Maintenance



www.gilbertaz.gov/stormwater



About the Town

Did you know that the Town has two sewer systems?

- The **sanitary sewer** collects waste water from homes, business, and industry from sinks, toilets, and other outlets. It goes to the water treatment plant for treatment.
- The **storm sewer** collects rainwater runoff from the streets. In the Town of Gilbert stormwater runoff does NOT go to a water treatment facility before entering our recreational surface waters. It is transported by drains, streets, gutters, curbs, and open channels directly into retention filtration basins, parks, washes, canals, and community lakes.

Water is a precious commodity in the desert! As Gilbert grows, there will be an ever-increasing need to protect our water resources from pollutants. Each of us can share in that responsibility by taking simple measures to ensure that our daily activities help to protect our water resources.

Best Management Practices to keep pollutants out of our storm system:

If you change your oil at home you can:

- Use a drip pan or piece of cardboard to catch any drips or spills before they go onto your driveway, the street, or into the gutter.
- Absorb spilled oil using commercial products designed to absorb automotive fluids, kitty litter, or sand. Sweep up used absorbent materials immediately.
- Fix leaks as soon as possible.
- Recycle your used motor oil by putting it in a water tight jug and taking it to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, which is free to Gilbert Residents. www.gilbertaz.gov/hhw

When it's time to wash your car you can:

- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash facility. Water from these facilities is plumbed into the sanitary sewer or recycled on site, not only preventing the discharge of pollutants, but saving water as well.
- Wash your vehicle on a porous surface such as grass. This reduces the amount of water discharged to the storm sewer. Make sure not to wash your vehicle on surfaces without ground cover (i.e. bare dirt) since this may discharge sediment into the storm sewer which violates local ordinances.
- Do not use harsh chemicals. Use low phosphate or "green" soap. This will reduce the number of pollutants entering the storm system.
- Use a hose nozzle. This will save water and prevent excess water from entering the storm system.

Common Stormwater Pollutants:



- Motor Oil, Fuel, Grease, & other fluids
- Pet Waste
- Sediment
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Yard Waste



Keeping stormwater clean & protecting our surface water is a job for all of us.

Report Illegal Dumping or

Find More Information at:

www.gilbertaz.gov/stormwater



Only Rain in the Storm Drain