

STORMDRAINS are metal grates found on neighborhood streets, often at corners and on the sides of curbs and gutters. They help prevent flooding by draining rainwater and melted snow off streets and other paved surfaces.

ONLY RAIN SHOULD GO DOWN STORMDRAINS!
YOU can help keep our community's water clean and healthy! By keeping waste and hazardous materials out of stormdrains, you're doing your part to reduce flooding and pollution in our local waterways.

Find more ways to help protect our water at MARC.ORG/WATER

KNOW WHERE WATER FLOWS



The water that goes down a sink or toilet in your home or business flows through a **SEWER SYSTEM** to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and cleaned.



Water that flows down a driveway or street and into a gutter enters a **STORMDRAIN** that deposits it directly in lakes, rivers and streams... *untreated*.





Close Water Hoolthy Life

Clean Water. Healthy Life.

Mid-America Regional Council



Did you know that your everyday habits impact our water quality?

Even small amounts of pollution can add up to big problems.
Leaving materials on yards and streets can pose dangers to the health and safety of our neighborhoods and the environment.

IF IT'S ON THE GROUND
IT'S IN OUR
WATER



When it rains, water runs across rooftops, down streets and across parking lots and yards, picking up substances along the way.



This stormwater "runoff" often contains materials like chemical fertilizer, pet waste, litter, cigarette butts, automotive fluids and yard waste, such as leaves and grass clippings.

Runoff washes down stormdrains and is deposited into local rivers and streams, *untreated*, causing pollution and endangering public health.





USE A RAIN BARREL.

Use a rain barrel to collect water from downspouts for use on your lawn and garden. This conserves water and saves money on your water bill. Using a rain barrel also helps reduce the amount of stormwater runoff

from your property.



LANDSCAPE WITH NATIVE PLANTS

AND RAIN GARDENS.

Native plants have natural properties that often eliminate or reduce the need for mowing, fertilizing or using pesticides.

Rain gardens catch stormwater and slowly filter it into the ground, meaning less water runs off lawns into our storm sewers, helping

prevent flooding and erosion in our streams.



PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET.

Pet waste is not a fertilizer — it contains harmful bacteria. Carry disposable bags while walking your

dog to pick up and dispose of waste in the trash.



USE LAWN CHEMICALS SPARINGLY.

Chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides can contain ingredients harmful to human health and the environment. Test your soil to know how much fertilizer your lawn *really* needs.



GO NATURAL.

Instead of using chemical lawn products, consider compost or natural alternatives.

