

Storm Water Pollution Prevention:

Lawn care and Gardening

The City's storm drainage system is designed to efficiently carry rain and snow melt to Utah Lake and away from our streets and homes. Storm drainage inlets are the grates or openings usually located in the street near the curb.



The down side of this system is that any pollutant (garbage, chemicals, pet wastes, etc.) that is in our streets may enter the storm drainage system and ultimately, Utah Lake. **There is no treatment of this water -- it goes directly to the river.** Yard wastes like leaves and grass clippings cause blockages and localized flooding. They also decompose into nutrients that cause algae growth, depriving fish of their needed oxygen. Soil sediment can be carried through our creeks and streams to the lake, which also smothers the fish.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

CHECK storm drain inlets near your neighborhood to make sure they are free of debris. Rake leaves/debris away from the inlet and dispose properly. You should immediately report the problem to the Storm Drain System Supervisor if the debris is excessive or causes any back up or flooding.

NEVER remove the inlet grate from the storm drain opening; this does not unclog the system and creates a hazard.

LANDSCAPE- Planted areas absorb more rainwater and help water percolate into the ground. Bare soil promotes water runoff and soil deposits.

SWALES direct runoff from your property to a location that allows the soil to absorb the water.

RAIN GARDENS- Plant a garden in an area of your yard where water pools after irrigation or rain. This allows the water to seep into the ground rather than runoff the property.

PERVIOUS PAVEMENT- As an alternate to concrete driveways, use paving bricks, which help reduce runoff.

SWEEP UP yard debris from streets and sidewalks instead of washing it away. Leaves and grass clippings left on streets or other paved surfaces will enter our creeks.



NEVER dump grass clippings and other yard waste into storm drains or near creek or stream banks.

LEAVES in quantities too great to be mulched on the lawn may be composted or bagged for curb pickup.

BRANCHES may be bundled and placed on the curb for pickup by the disposal company.

DON'T BAG IT. Let grass clippings drop to the lawn. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn all summer is equivalent to one application of fertilizer. And because grass is mostly water, it also irrigates your lawn, conserving water. Reducing the need to water as often or use of toxic fertilizers means less contaminated runoff from your lawn.

DISCUSS with your lawn care service about your yard care. Even if you use a professional service, it is still up to you to make sure that your landscaper does not contribute to the storm water pollution problem. Ask them to leave clippings on the lawn and make sure they sweep up stray clippings and dispose of them properly instead of leaving them in the street.



**Report Illegal Discharges to the
Storm Drain System Supervisor**

801-785-2941

12 STEP STORM DRAIN AWARENESS PROGRAM

