Vehicle Care

- Take your vehicle to a car wash or use a non-phosphate, biodegradable detergent.
- Dry up spills of oil or antifreeze with absorbent materials such as sand or kitty litter.
- Drain oil, lubricants and antifreeze into containers and seal them.
- Take used lubricants to a designated gas station or recycling center for disposal.

Household Care

- Clean rain gutters frequently
- Do not rinse paint cans, brushes, detergent pails or other cleaning containers on your driveway or the street.
- Firmly seal and store all used chemicals, and dispose of excess material at a recycling or hazardous waste facility.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is storm water runoff?

A: Storm water run-off is the water that flows off roofs, driveways, parking lots, streets, and other hard surfaces during rain storms. Rather than being absorbed into the ground, it drains into ditches, and storm sewers. It does not receive treatment before entering waterways.

Q: What types of problems does polluted storm water runoff cause?

A: Storm water can carry harmful non-point source pollutants and destroy aquatic life habitats. In an area with natural ground cover, only 10% of rainwater becomes runoff, the rest is absorbed or evaporated. However, in urban areas, up to 55% of rainfall can become storm water runoff.

Q: Where is the best place for me to dispose of hazardous, chemical, and oil waste?

A: Call Fire Administration at 375-3080.

Did You Know?

Oil that is dumped in storm drains goes straight into the Roanoke river. Oil and other water pollution degrades surface waters making them unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways.

Engineering Department
1238 West Main St.
Salem, VA 24153
Phone #: (540) 375-3032
Fax #: (540) 375-4040
Email: engineering@salemva.gov

Sources:

http://www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca/am_pw/drainage_services/environment/water_pollution_facts.html
http://www.epa.gov

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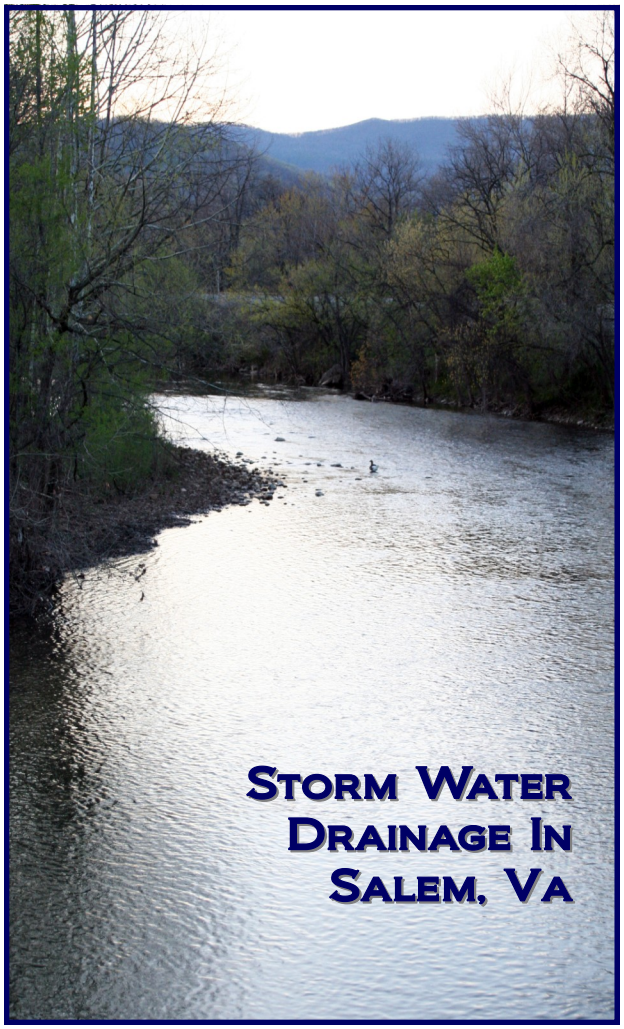
NPDES Phase II Regulations



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What is the purpose of NPDES Phase II?

This is an informative brochure that provides information about storm water drainage in Salem and highlights ways to reduce pollution. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a plan under the Clean Water Act to improve water quality in our lakes, streams and rivers. This plan is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Currently, Salem, Virginia is faced with meeting water quality standards for storm water drainage, which is the run-off from rooftops, streets and other impervious surfaces. Salem is required to implement six minimum control measures

- Public education and outreach
- Public participation
- Illicit discharge detection
- Construction site runoff control
- Post-construction runoff control
- Pollution prevention.

These requirements are being used to "preserve, improve, and protect the nation's water resources and polluted storm water runoff (EPA 2002)." Storm water that goes into storm drains is a concern to the EPA and Salem because of the water's high concentration of pollutants.

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How does NPDES Phase II affect you?

- Salem is faced with meeting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Phase II requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). One of Salem's goals is to raise public awareness so that Salem residents will be able to make better informed decisions about where they dispose of waste.
- Salem residents are responsible for making informed decisions that have a positive impact on the Roanoke River and surrounding water ways.
- Salem would like to gain your support for this program so that residents can enjoy cleaner water resources and a healthier environment.

What you need to know:

Yard Care

- Don't fertilize or apply weed killers to your lawn before a forecasted rain shower because chemicals will wash away. Only apply recommended amounts.
- Use slow release natural fertilizers and low toxicity pest control products.
- Sweep or soak up chemical spills on driveways and sidewalks.
- Bag, mulch or compost yard waste. Don't sweep leaves, grass and other debris into the gutter.
- Select plants and grasses which grow easily in Salem and require less water, fertilizers and pesticides
- Control sprinkler run-off by watering only when necessary, and aim sprinkler heads away from paved surfaces.
- Sweep your driveway instead of hosing it down.
- Control erosion. Stabilize exposed soil areas to prevent soil from eroding during rain events. This is particularly important on steep slopes. The most cost-effective choice is to vegetate the area, preferably with a mulch or binder that will hold the soils.