

# POLLUTION PREVENTION FOR HOMEOWNERS

## DO Protect, **DON'T** Pollute Iowa Waters



### Do Protect

1. Keep fertilizers and lawn chemicals on lawns and off pavement.
2. Promptly clean up spills to prevent them from washing into the street and storm drain.
3. Pick up after pets. Pet waste contains bacteria that pollutes water.
4. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it on your driveway. Prevent soapy water runoff from leaving your property and reaching a stream.
5. Sweep up fertilizers and grass clippings from driveways, sidewalks and streets.
6. Fix oil and antifreeze leaks from your car.

### Don't Pollute

7. DON'T wash off your driveway into the street where it will reach the stream.
8. DON'T dump oil or any other waste products in a storm drain as it flows to the stream.
9. DON'T dump lawn clippings on stream banks. Leave them on the lawn or bag and compost them.
10. DON'T mow grass clippings into the street. Leave them on the lawn or bag and compost them.



## Keep Polluted Water Out of Streams

# Redirect Downspouts

The roof on a residential home is often the biggest generator of rainwater runoff. Downspouts move the rainwater from the roof to the ground. Often these downspouts are placed directly on paved surfaces, such as the driveway. One downspout from your home could send 7,500 gallons of water down the driveway in a year. Don't let this rainwater get away, pick up pollutants, and become stormwater runoff. Redirect the downspouts off your driveway and onto your lawn.

*Downspouts that outlet to driveways allow pollutants to more quickly and easily enter storm drains and streams.*



## Good Solutions

There are many ways property owners can put rainwater to good use, while reducing the amount of stormwater runoff that ends up in local waterways.

- » Install downspout elbows or extension tubing to move the water away from the pavement to the new outlet area in the lawn.
- » Use splash blocks or decorative flagstones to prevent erosion and direct runoff further from foundations.
- » Consider installing a hinged downspout to allow for easy lifting during mowing.
- » Discharge the downspout at least 5 feet from the foundation to an area that slopes away from the house.
- » Consider soil quality restoration to help the discharge area absorb rainfall better.

### Don't Do This...



**Do This...** At this home, the homeowners redirected their downspout away from their driveway and also capture water for reuse into two rain barrels.

## Rainscape It!

Consider incorporating rain gardens, rain barrels or other rainscaping practices.



[rainscapingiowa.org](http://rainscapingiowa.org)

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