

# Citizen's Guide to the Michigan Wellhead Protection Program



Adopted from  
Michigan Rural Water Association's  
Source Water Protection Program Article Series

1.3

## PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS: KEEP ITEMS OUT OF STORM DRAINS

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE OF A STORM DRAIN?

Storm drains are an important feature within our community because during heavy rainstorms the drains reduce flooding in streets and neighborhoods by transporting large volumes of water into rivers quickly. Filters are not installed in the drains because they would delay the passage of water. Therefore, whatever goes down storm drains will end up in our waterways (rivers, streams, lakes, creeks and oceans).

### TIPS TO PROTECT OUR STORM DRAINS

- ✓ Keep garbage out of storm drains. Put litter in trash cans and dispose of toxic substances properly.
- ✓ Use a broom, not a hose to clean spills.
- ✓ Grass clippings clog storm drains and cause water to backup onto the streets. Sweep clippings back onto your lawn.
- ✓ Never fertilize before it rains. When it rains, the fertilizer goes into storm drains and causes problems.
- ✓ Landscape to retain rain water:
  - Create small berms and depressions in your garden to hold rain water.
  - Border your lawn with deep-rooted flowers and shrubs that soak up water and reduce runoff.
- ✓ Landscape to prevent soil erosion.
- ✓ Pick up after your pet. Double bag the waste and put it in the trash (if your community allows) or flush it.

