
Water Quality Facts

1. Water that enters a curbside drain (storm drain) is not treated before it enters a waterway.
2. Even “Biodegradable” products should not be placed in the curbside drain (storm drain).
3. Water-based products (Cleaners, Chemicals, Latex Paint) should not be poured into the curbside drain (storm drain).
4. Grass clippings and leaves are organic; but, they should not be washed into the curbside drain (storm drain).
5. Most coulees and ditches in Lafayette Parish flow to the Vermilion River.
6. Litter and soil eroding into the curbside drain reduces the flow to the river.
7. The Vermilion River contains harmful bacteria found in home septic systems and animal waste.

If a spill occurs:

- Stop the source of the spill immediately.
- Contain the liquid until the cleanup is complete.
- Cover liquid spills with an absorbent material.
- Keep indoor areas well ventilated.
- Dispose of clean-up materials properly.
- Do not use an emulsifier, such as soap, as a dispersing agent.
- Do not wash anything into the street, storm drain, ditch or river.



**Environmental Quality
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Plant Nurseries

Best Management Practices

to

Protect Water Quality



Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality

Stormwater Ordinance

Please be advised that the Environmental Quality Division of Lafayette Consolidated Government has recently adopted a

Stormwater Ordinance

Chapter 34. ENVIRONMENT

Article 5. STORMWATER

Division 4 Sec. 34-452

It is now in effect and being enforced. You may access this ordinance online at www.lafayettela.gov or you may call our office at (337) 291-8529 and we will send you a copy by mail.

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of Lafayette Parish citizens by regulating, to the maximum extent practicable as required by state and federal law, discharges of unacceptable materials (example: oil, dirt, debris) into the storm drainage system.

POSSIBLE PENALTIES

First Offense: \$250.00 per day per offense.

Second Offense: \$500.00 per day per offense.

Third Offense and thereafter: \$1,000.00 per day per offense.

Plant Nurseries

- Apply fertilizers to each plant individually, rather than spraying or broadcasting.
- Surround each plot with a low, small berm of earth to reduce storm and watering runoff.
- Don't apply pesticides or fertilizers when wind or rain is in the weather forecast.
- Apply only the correct dosage of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Using more than the correct dosage will waste money and result in excessive chemical runoff.
- Group plants by type when possible; for example, plants with low, medium or high water requirements.
- Collect runoff from rain and watering activities and reuse it. It already contains nutrients that washed out of the soil.
- Use dry clean up methods instead of washing the area down. Recycle spilled chemicals, if possible.
- Develop and maintain a spill response plan.
- Provide on-going employee training.



**REMEMBER
ONLY RAIN
in the Storm
Drain!**

We Want Your Input

Go online to:

www.lafayettela.gov/stormwater

Below the phrase

Please ... only *rain*

Down the *drain!*

Click on and fill out the

[Local Water Quality Questionnaire](#)

- Store containerized materials in a protected, secure location, away from drains.
- Don't pour chemicals into a sink, floor drain, storm drain, wash or the street.
- To capture chemical leaks, drips, and spills, use a spill pan under chemical drums with a dispenser tap.
- Place an adequate stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily accessible.
- Collect clippings and trimmings, and start a compost pile to make organic fertilizer.