In Weber County, storm water flows through storm drains directly to local creeks and rivers with NO TREATMENT.



Water quality can be affected by a number of natural elements as well as chemical elements introduced by humans.

## What kind of contaminants might reach our rivers and streams?

- •Contaminants resulting from unwise landscaping practices such as over applying or over watering might include: dirt, leaves, grass clippings, fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.
- •Chemicals from household products from

washing your car, painting, or household cleaners.

•Toxins such as oil or antifreeze that may leak from your car.



## Are You Polluting Lakes and Streams?

Pet Owners... When you clean up after your pet, do you dump the waste in the street or storm drainage system? Do you leave it to decay on the sidewalk or on the parkway? If so, you may be causing pollution or health problems.

Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into the storm drainage system by rain or melting snow. Storm runoff in Weber County receives NO treatment.

When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays, using up oxygen and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures kill fish.



- Pet wastes also contain nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Overly fertile water becomes cloudy and green—unattractive for swimming, boating, and fishing.
- Perhaps most importantly, pet waste can carry diseases which could make water unsafe for contact.

#### What Can You Do?

Cleaning up after you pet can be as simple as taking a plastic bag or pooper scooper along on your next walk. What should you do with the waste you pick up? No solution is perfect, but we recommend two:

1. Flush It down the toilet.
The water in your toilet goes to a sewage treatment plant that removes most pollutants before the water reaches a river or stream.



To prevent plumbing problems, don't flush debris, cat litter. Cat feces may be flushed but used litter should be put in a securely closed bag in the trash.

2. Put waste in a securely closed bag and deposit it in the trash.

Because pet waste may carry diseases, you should not bury it in a vegetable garden. Do not put waste in a compost pile. The pile will not get hot enough to kill diseases organisms in the waste.

For additional information on Storm Water Protection refer to the following brochures:

**Erosion Control** 

Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

Household and Vehicle Maintenance

Impervious Surfaces

Landscaping, Gardening, and Yard Maintenance

Paint and Household Hazardous Waste

Pet Waste Water Quality

Utah and its Water, Why Conserve

Water Conservation Inside the Home

Water Conservation Outside the Home

Xeriscaping



For more information about the Weber County Storm water quality management program and additional pamphlets, contact:

Weber County Storm Water Management Dr. George S. Burbidge 444-24th St. Ogden, UT 84401 Office (801)399-8677 Fax (801)625-3699 www.co.weber.ut.us/stormwater.

Brochure created by Salt Lake County Engineering Division modified by Weber County Storm Water Management Division

### **Spill Response**

Dial 911

-or-

State Of Utah Environmental Response (801) 536-4123

Utah Division of Water Quality (801) 538-6146

Local Pollution Control
Agencies:
Environmental Health Division of the
Weber/Morgan Health Department
(801) 591-7168



1-800-458-0145

Used Oil Recyclers (for DIYers in Weber County)

Weber County Transfer Station
Auto Zone Stores
Checker Auto Parts Stores
NAPA Auto Parts Stores
Pep Boys Stores
Little Tire & Lube
Jiffy Lube

The preceding list is not all encompassing nor does it constitute an endorsement by Weber County of any particular company

# PET WASTE and WATER QUALITY



RECOMMENDED METHODS FOR STORM WATER PROTECTION

