

Water for 2060 is Oklahoma's statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than we did in 2010. In addition to conserving and reusing our water to meet this goal, this also means protecting our fresh water supplies from pollution.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

The porous and varied terrain of natural landscapes like forests, wetlands, and grasslands traps rainwater and snowmelt and allows them to filter slowly into the ground. In contrast, impervious (nonporous) surfaces like roads, parking lots, and rooftops prevent rain and snowmelt from infiltrating, or soaking, into the ground. Most of the rainfall and snowmelt remains above the surface, where it runs off rapidly in unnaturally large amounts.

Urbanization increases the variety and amount of pollutants carried into streams, rivers, and lakes.

The pollutants include:

- Sediment;
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from motor vehicles;
- Pesticides and nutrients from lawns and gardens;
- Viruses, bacteria, and nutrients from pet waste and failing septic systems;
- Road salts;
- Heavy metals from roof shingles, motor vehicles, and other sources; and
- Thermal pollution from dark impervious surfaces such as streets and rooftops.

These pollutants can harm fish and wildlife populations, kill native vegetation, foul drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/nps or www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater.

10 Things You Can Do To Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- 1 Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads
- 2 Never dump anything down storm drains
- 3 Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- 4 Compost your yard waste instead of throwing it away
- 5 Avoid pesticides in favor of integrated pest management (IPM)
- 6 Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- 7 Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- 8 Check car for leaks and recycle motor oil and antifreeze when changing fluids
- 9 Inspect and pump your septic tank regularly
- 10 Pick up pet waste

Did you know that because of impervious surfaces like pavement and rooftops, a typical city block generates more than 5 times more runoff than a woodland area of the same size?

