

RURAL HOMES

Pesticides, fertilizers, septic system overflows, soil, and animal manure from rural homes often make their way into the “*permit-holding entity name here*” storm sewer system and DO NOT GET TREATED before reaching the local waterways. These wastes pollute drinking water and make waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.

The following practices will help prevent storm water pollution.

Protecting Your Well

Since old uncapped and abandoned wells can serve as direct conduits to our groundwater, it is important to maintain these areas. Keep all livestock confinement areas away from wells, and keep septic drain fields and chemical storage areas downslope from wells. Antisiphoning devices should be installed between your well and water pipes to prevent backflow of pollutants and drinking water contamination. REMEMBER: Never dispose of anything in wells.

Fertilizers and Pesticides

Avoid buying and mixing more pesticide than you need, and never apply more than the recommended amount. Consider spot treatments rather than spraying pesticides everywhere. REMEMBER: Do not dispose of excess chemicals by dumping them on the ground; pouring them down a well; or draining them into ditches, sewers, drains, or septic systems. Call XXX-XXXX for disposal information. Chemicals should be stored in a covered area with an impermeable lined floor to prevent contact with storm water.

Rural Landscape

Reduce soil erosion by covering parking areas with gravel and by covering other exposed soils with vegetation. Gravel and vegetation will not only improve the appearance of your home, but will also assist in filtering out pollutants from water. For information on reducing erosion, call XXX-XXXX.

Autos and Other Equipment

Repair vehicles and other equipment away from wells, ditches, and drains. Avoid accidental spills by using a drip pan and funnel when draining or pouring fluids. Prevent leaks from stored vehicles by draining gas; hydraulic oil; and transmission, brake, and radiator fluids. For recycling information, call XXX-XXXX.

Septic Systems

Septic systems should never be piped into a road ditch, storm sewer, stream, or farm drain tile system. Avoid washing or flushing grease, alcohol, or strong chemicals into your septic system; these substances kill the bacteria needed to break down wastes.

For more information, call your city’s storm water representative at XXX-XXXX.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document represents a careful consolidation, distillation, and restatement of storm water-related information, policies, and regulations obtained from other sources including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the North Dakota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the United States Census Bureau. Prior to implementing any of the best management practices and recommendations stated within this document, it is suggested the reader review the original sources of this information in detail.