

# Storm Drains and Water Quality

Storm drains are sometimes misused for the disposal of paint, motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, grass clippings, and other wastes. People are looking for a convenient place to dispose of these items and often are not aware that storm drains usually lead to nearby streams, rivers, lakes, or even sinkholes which are conduits to groundwater. In addition, each time it rains, water runoff carries street litter, yard debris, pet wastes, and other pollutants into storm drains. This "nonpoint source pollution" is a significant source of contamination for Ozark's water resources.



! Each year in the United States, do-it-yourself motor oil changers improperly dispose of 192 million gallons of used motor oil into our environment. **One gallon of used motor oil can contaminate one million gallons of water.**

! Antifreeze is primarily composed of ethylene glycol, a sweet and poisonous compound which can kill or injure pets, birds, fish, and other wildlife when disposed of carelessly into the environment. It can also contain heavy metal contaminants picked up from engines during use.

! Paint, even latex paint, can contain a variety of hazardous ingredients including lead, mercury, and organic solvents.

! Soap suds from washing the car, rinse water from paint cleanup, pet waste, cigarette butts, litter, pesticide and fertilizer runoff, and yard wastes can all cause environmental problems when discharged into waterways via storm drains.

