

# What can I do to prevent water contamination due to storm water discharge?

There are several simple steps that you can take to prevent water contamination:

- Do not pour hazardous substances such as paint, automotive fluids, cleaning supplies or used oil down any part of the storm sewer system.
- Use environmentally friendly pesticides and fertilizers in small amounts on your lawn.
- Watch for motor vehicle fluid leaks and correct them (vehicles fluids include oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze, and brake fluid).
- Pick up waste left by your pet and dispose of it properly in order to prevent harmful bacteria from washing into the storm drain.
- Remove debris and litter from driveways, parking lots and sidewalks, especially around storm drains.

## How can I get more information?

More information on storm water discharge and how you can help prevent water contamination in the Moose Jaw River Watershed, contact:

City of Moose Jaw  
Engineering Department  
(306) 694-4448 office (306) 691-0292 fax  
[www.moosejaw.ca](http://www.moosejaw.ca)

-or -

Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards Inc.  
(306) 691-3396 office  
[www.mjriver.ca](http://www.mjriver.ca)



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Mark Taylor and Wakamow Valley

# Stormwater Discharge & Contamination Prevention



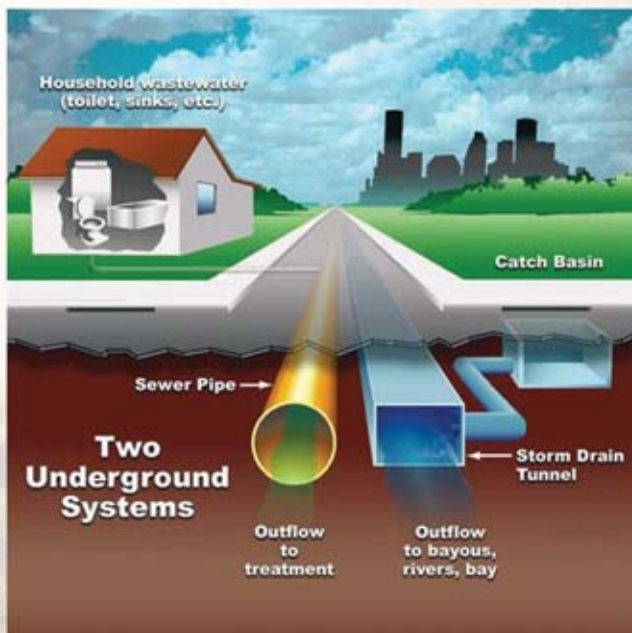


## What are some examples of contaminants?

Some hazardous materials that can enter our water supplies include:

- Oil
- Sediment
- Heavy metals
- Paint
- Automotive fluids
- Road Salt
- Bacteria
- Cleaning supplies
- Pesticides and fertilizer
- Pet waste

In addition to various hazardous fluids and waste, litter such as plastic bags, six pack rings, bottles, and other debris can potentially disable aquatic life.



Stormwater from the City of Moose Jaw and other major urban centers can potentially collect adverse substances and deposit them into the Moose Jaw River.

When determining sources of surface water pollution, we may not have to look further than our own backyard or driveway. Various contaminants produced as a result of our everyday activities can be conveyed to our river by runoff.

During a rainfall or snowmelt in urban areas, the water is transported out of the areas through the storm sewer system in order to prevent flooding. The water is ultimately discharged into receiving waters, such as the Moose Jaw River.

During its journey out of the city, the water can pick up pollutants as it flows over impermeable surfaces, and is not subject to the natural soil and vegetation filtration.

Urban runoff has been recognized as a significant environmental detriment, and can cause hazardous effects on receiving waters.

## What are the effects of water contamination?

Water contamination can have many negative impacts on both humans and wildlife in the Moose Jaw River Watershed.

Polluted water can kill aquatic wildlife, cause habitat destruction, interfere with water quality processes and stunt the growth of aquatic plants. Pollutants can also be passed from one animal to another, such as when a bird eats a fish containing toxins. As well, contaminants from stormwater can stay in the environment for a long period of time, Pathogens and trace metals in city effluents can contaminate fish consumed by humans, resulting in sickness or death. Areas used for recreation can become contaminated with human and pet waste, causing the outbreak of waterborne diseases. Polluted storm water can also affect drinking water, endangering human health while increasing drinking water treatment costs.