INTRODUCTION

What is stormwater?

• It is rainfall and snowmelt that did not soak into the ground.
• It forms run-off which flows into storm drains and ends up in rivers, lakes, wetlands.
• Often picks up pollutants as it flows across parking lots, streets, lawns.
• Does NOT flow to treatment plant.
Pollutants in storm water

- Bacteria: From animal poop
- Nutrients (Nitrates, phosphorus): From fertilizers on lawns and agriculture.
- Sediment: From construction sites, agriculture, unpaved roads.
- Oil & Grease: from driveways, parking lots.
- Metals: From roads, railways.
- Other chemicals: Pesticides, petroleum

Photo courtesy of Partners of a Clean Environment (PACE)
Why is Stormwater pollution a problem?

• It impairs water quality and kills aquatic life.

• In 2003, an estimated 2 million fish were killed due to low oxygen caused by polluted stormwater runoff in the Neuse River.
Why is Stormwater pollution a problem?

- It increases cost of drinking water treatment.
- *The Rio Grande is a drinking water source. The more pollution enters it through stormwater, the more expensive it is to treat.*
Why is Stormwater pollution a problem?

- It can affect recreation and tourism.
- *Lakes, beaches and rivers may remain closed due to bacteria and other pollution from stormwater.*
Why is Stormwater pollution a problem?

Causes floods and may lead to property damage and loss of lives.

July 26, 2013 Flood, Albuquerque, NM. Photo courtesy of KOAT.com

July 26, 2013 Flood, Bernalillo, NM. Photo courtesy of Albuquerque Journal
Preventing stormwater Pollution – Best Management Practices (BMPs)

• General Rule - only rain can go down the stormwater drain.

• “No dumping. Only Rain in the Drain”
Preventing stormwater pollution-BMPs

Do not dispose of waste into storm drains, or cross connect with other piping systems.
Preventing stormwater pollution - BMPs

Housekeeping:
Properly store & dispose of chemicals.

Photo courtesy of University of North Carolina
Preventing stormwater pollution

Clean up chemical spills.

Photo courtesy of University of North Carolina

Photo courtesy of PACE
Preventing stormwater pollution

• Keep storm drains free of litter and debris

• Do not put grass clippings or leaves into storm drains

• Sweep up driveways, sidewalks and gutters with a broom; flushing with water washes pollutants into storm drains leading to the river.

Photo courtesy of PACE
Preventing stormwater pollution

Dispose of sweepings and trash in a closed trash containers.

Inspect trash containers for leaks.

Make sure waste does not leak into storm drain.
Preventing stormwater pollution

Pick up after your pet. Pet waste contains bacteria and nutrients that get carried by stormwater into the river.
Preventing stormwater pollution

- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil. Motor oil can be washed into storm drains, polluting the river.

- Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
Preventing stormwater pollution

• Use fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides sparingly.

• Follow manufacturer’s instructions during application.

• Do not apply fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides immediately before a rain is forecast.

• Runoff can wash these chemicals into the storm drain and pollute rivers.

• Use less toxic detergents, pesticides and solvents, and follow instructions on labels.

Photo courtesy of University of North Carolina
Preventing stormwater pollution

Use low impact development.

Consider a rain garden to capture runoff.

Pave fewer surfaces. Pavement prevents rain from soaking into the grounds.
Preventing stormwater pollution

• Reduce runoff from construction sites. Install silt fences.

• Soil stockpiles should be covered with tarp.

• Bare areas should be seeded and covered with mulch to prevent erosion.
UNM Stormwater

• For more information on how you can help, visit:
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