

SULLIVAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE—USA

YOUR SOLUTION TO POLLUTION

A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

Be a Good Steward of Your Land

- **Lawn Care**—excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawn and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams. **Things you can do:** don't overwater your lawn, use a soaker hose instead; use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly; compost or mulch yard waste instead of sweeping to street and storm drains; cover piles of dirt and mulch; and stabilize steep banks and lawn with grass, mulch, plantings, or trees—don't leave dirt exposed to erode away.
- **Septic Systems**—leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses), then rainwater can pick those up and run into our nearby creeks and rivers, which can cause a serious public health issue for us all. **Things you can do**—inspect your septic system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary; don't dispose of household hazardous waste into your sinks or toilets.
- **Auto Care**—washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm drains or drainage easements that flow into our creeks, rivers, and lakes. This is the same as dumping oil directly into the lake. This is why auto service centers and car wash facilities are required to pump out and separate such waste and are subject to other regulations. **If you enjoy swimming and fishing in clean water, remember these things you can do to keep our lakes clean.**

County Grading Permits

Site Plans detailing drainage and grading plans for new construction are required for all proposed developments within Sullivan County if the site is at least 1 acre in size or part of a larger plan such as a subdivision. Grading plans are not required for single-family home building; however property owners are not exempt from stormwater pollution prevention practices. **All run-off of water and/or soil sedimentation (mud) shall be the responsibility of the current property owner and any clean-up of such shall be at no cost to the county.** Violators are subject to the enforcement of the Sullivan County Zoning Resolution, Article 80103.3

State General Construction Permits

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (grading and drainage plans) shall be submitted to the local field office of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in Johnson City for all grading projects over 1 acre or sites that are part of a larger plan, such as a subdivision. Such permits shall be enforced by the local community with assistance from TDEC. All plans shall be prepared in accordance with TDEC's Erosion & Sediment Control Guidelines, which are available on-line or at the County's Planning & Zoning Department.

No grading of any kind shall begin, until all local and State grading permits have been obtained.

Source: EPA Education Materials

Be a Concerned Citizen

- Call the Planning & Zoning Department regarding any problems in your neighborhood regarding eroding mud onto county roads, illegal dumping into natural water bodies—creeks, streams, rivers and lakes, or man-made water bodies—drainage gullies, storm drains, detention or retention ponds.
- Learn more on what you can do or what the regulations require by visiting the following websites:
[www.sullivancounty.org/land use office](http://www.sullivancounty.org/land_use_office)
www.state.tn.us/environment
www.epa.gov and go to Clean Water Act

- **Local Numbers:**
Sullivan County Planning & Zoning
423.323.6440

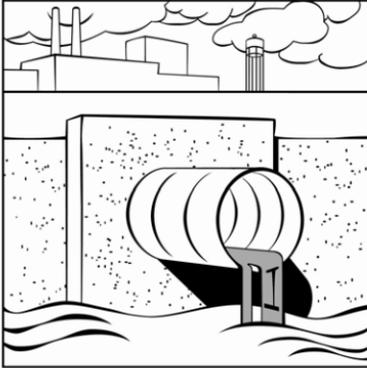
Bristol city Planning Department
423.989.5514

Kingsport city Planning Department
423.229.9485

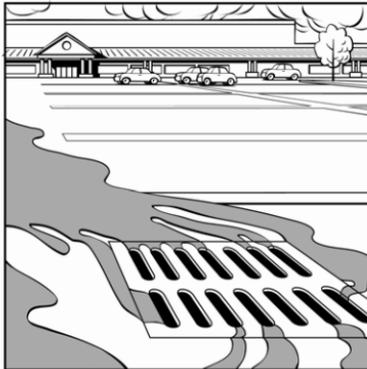
State TDEC (Environmental office)
423.854.5400

Remember...
“When it rains, it drains.”

Pollution isn't what it used to be...



Only 10% of the nation's waters are polluted by "point sources" alone, discharge from industrial plants and wastewater treatment facilities



Most waters are polluted by "non-point sources," the contaminants that rain washes off land, pavement and roofs and carries into streams.

Pathogens

Pathogens are organisms in human and animal waste. They can cause disease directly if people go into pathogen-polluted water, or indirectly if they eat shellfish from contaminated water. Sources of pathogens include runoff from pastures, failed septic systems and pet waste.

Nutrients

Nutrients include nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers or animal wastes. They can cause a health hazard in drinking water and stimulate plant growth which lowers the level of dissolved oxygen in water and kills fish.

Sediment

Sediment is eroded soil from construction sites, unmulched planting beds and bare farm fields. As much as six tons of soil can wash off a single acre in a year if the soil is not covered by vegetation. This soil settles out in streams and lakes and smothers aquatic habitat, clouds the water and eventually silts up channels and even entire waterways.

Thermal stress

As rain or other water runs across hot roofs, parking lots, roads and driveways it heats up. This heated water warms up the streams and ponds into which it runs and kills off many plant and fish species.

Debris

Debris is trash of any sort that washes off parking lots, driveways, construction sites and city streets and is carried into waterways.

Chemicals

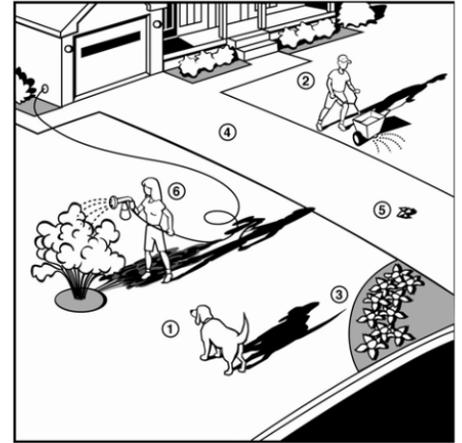
Chemicals include pesticides or herbicides washed off lawns or farm fields; oil, antifreeze, brake fluid or steering fluid washed off roads, parking lots and driveways; or household chemicals and cleaners poured into storm drains.

Source: TVA, Growth Readiness Education Materials



**Sullivan County, Tennessee
A Phase II Community**

**How You Can Help Prevent Stormwater
Pollution in Your Neighborhood:
A Citizen's Guide to Understanding How
Rain Water Collects Contaminants that
Pollute Our Rivers and Lakes**



1.) Pathogens 2.) Nutrients 3.) Sediment
4.) Thermal stress 5.) Debris 6.) Chemicals