

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is stormwater pollution?

Stormwater pollution is anything other than rainwater that enters a storm drain.

2. Where do stormwater pollutants come from?

Stormwater pollutants originate from many human activities including lawn care, construction, and vehicle maintenance. Some examples of pollutants found in stormwater include:

- x Pesticides
- x Nutrients
- x Petroleum products
- x Sediments
- x Detergents
- x Solvents
- x Heavy metals
- x Litter

3. How can stormwater pollution adversely affect the environment?

Toxic materials including petroleum products, pesticides, detergents, and other chemicals can harm aquatic ecosystems by killing organisms including fish, shellfish, and vegetation.

Nutrients including the nitrogen and phosphorus found in fertilizers and animal waste can cause an overgrowth of algae, which can drive out indigenous plants and animals. In addition, when

6. Who regulates stormwater runoff?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates stormwater runoff through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). EPA authorized the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to implement the NPDES Stormwater Permitting Program in October of 2000. FDEP is responsible for issuing permits and performing compliance and enforcement activities as the NPDES permitting authority in Florida. There are two phases of the NPDES Stormwater Program.

7. What is the difference between the two phases of the NPDES Stormwater Program?

11. What are some things that can be done to protect the quality of USF stormwater?

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