

Fertilizers, Herbicides, Pesticides

Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers are commonly used throughout the country, which are toxic for people, plants and fish. Approximately 10% of fertilizers used in residential areas end up in storm water. Excessive application of these products can result in groundwater or surface water contamination, and plant and animal die off. Fertilizer contains large amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen, which can lead to massive amounts of aquatic plant growth that is detrimental to the health of streams and bodies of water. When applying these products, avoid frequent use and over-application. Residents often rinse a used container with water only to dump it on impervious surfaces that carry the polluted water directly to a storm drain during runoff events.

Utilizing safer alternatives is an excellent way to reduce this type of runoff pollution. For example, removing infected plant debris to reduce pest resurgence. Use compost or mulch for fertilizer instead of purchasing the manufactured kind. Recycle grass clippings, and utilize weed control fabric.

For more information on how fertilizers and manure can negatively impact water quality of rural communities, follow the links provided below:

[The Sources and Solutions: Agriculture | Nutrient Pollution | US EPA](#)

Examples of Material Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are provided below. Always check Safety Data Sheets before using any fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides before use.