



# ***THE RIVER BEGINS AT YOUR FRONT DOOR!***

Every time someone dumps waste in the storm drain catch basin on your street, that waste flows directly into our river.

Today, with the permission of the Little Rock Board of Directors, Boy Scout members have stenciled a message near storm drains in your neighborhood. The message is meant to educate and remind people of the direct connection between storm drains and local water quality.

Most storm drains lead directly to local waterways that ultimately empty into the Arkansas River. Once in these waters, used motor oil, anti-freeze and animal wastes – even in small amounts – have profound effect on the quality of water, animals, and plants that live there.

For more information about what you can do to protect our waterways, creeks, and the Arkansas River, call the Little Rock Public Works Department at (501) 371-4811.



LITTLE ROCK PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT (501) 371-4811

## **-ECOFACTS-**

- Stormwater entering storm drains dumps directly into local waterways eventually making its way into the Arkansas River.
- Unlike sanitary sewer from your home, stormwater is not treated prior to entering our ditches and creeks.
- Silt is the leading pollutant in our rivers and streams today.
- Next to agricultural runoff, stormwater runoff from urban areas is the largest source of our nation's water quality problems.
- Everything that enters a storm drain goes directly to the river.
- Stormwater from urban areas can have as contaminants, animal droppings, eroded soil, tire residue, antifreeze, pesticides, and chemical fertilizers.
- Dumping 1 quart of motor oil contaminates 250,000 gallons of water.

## **-WHAT CAN YOU DO?-**

- Clean up after your pet. Pet wastes can be a huge source of bacteria in local waterways!
- Fix your car leaks. More oil enters the river from urban runoff than from tanker spills.
- Water your lawn, not the driveway--it won't grow. Sweep your sidewalks and driveways clean instead. **All** that water washes to the river.
- Use non-toxic alternatives to household cleaners, drain openers, and insecticides.
- Sweep up grass clippings and trash that might otherwise be swept into the gutter.
- Recycle used motor oil at the City of Little Rock's collection center at the Fire Station on the corner of Markham and Elm streets.
- Dispose of household chemicals and paint at the household hazardous waste collection sites sponsored by the Pulaski County Regional Solid Waste Management District located at 11400 Ironton Road near the old landfill.
- Pull your own weeds. The less herbicides and pesticides you spray, the less that will reach the river.
- Next time you see some trash, pick it up. Be part of the solution.
- Talk to folks. Most people do not realize they are contributing to non-point source pollution.
- Shop smart. Buy only cleaning products labeled non-toxic.

## **-TOXIC PRODUCT ALTERNATIVES-**

**Instead of:**  
Drain Opener

**Use this:**  
1 cup of baking soda mixed with 1 cup of vinegar and 1 minute later followed by 1 pint of boiling water.

Glass Cleaner

Apply vinegar with newspaper and buff with dry newspaper.

Grease Cutter

Use lemon juice, vinegar, or sprinkle borax and scrub

Powder Bleach

Sprinkle borax on stains and scrub.

Carpet Cleaner

Sprinkle cornstarch onto carpet and vacuum. Use club soda on immediate spills.

Insecticides

Mix *borax* with a little brown sugar flour and sprinkle. Cockroaches carry the mixture back to their nests and die. Keep away from children.

Toilet cleaner

Liquid castile soap and baking soda or borax and a toilet brush.

General cleaner

Liquid castile, soap and baking soda or borax clean many things. Dilute for floors, walls and counters. Make strong for anything that gets rinsed.