

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.



City of Las Cruces
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Our Watershed



Storm Drain



"Only rain goes in the storm drains"



Everyone lives in a watershed.

We live in the El Paso/Las Cruces Watershed which is in the stretch of the lower Rio Grande



Rio Grande, Las Cruces

Where does all that
stormwater go after it rains?

Has anyone seen one of these before?



Storm drains, storm sewers, canals, streets and catch basins carry excess rain and ground water from paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks and roofs.



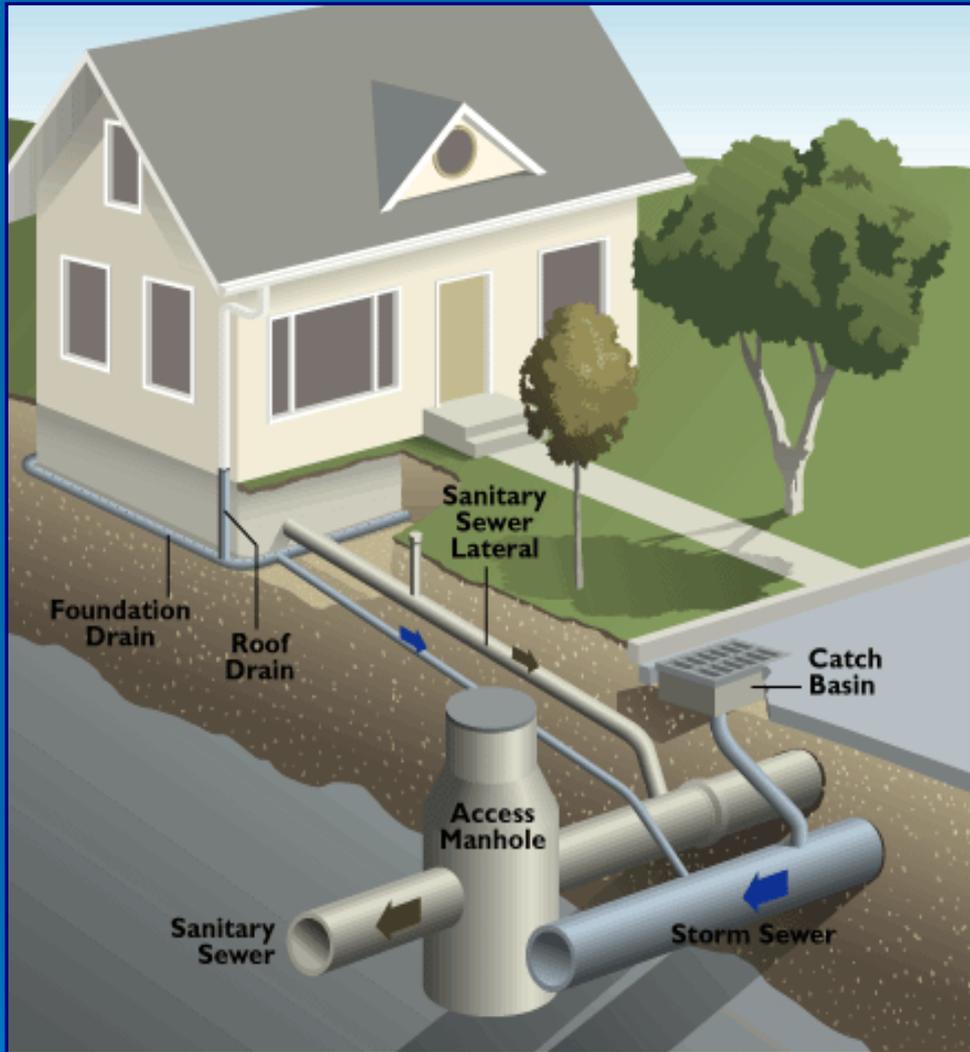


Your neighborhood might use storm drains to carry stormwater.



Canals carry stormwater and help keep the town from flooding.

What is the difference between a storm sewer and a sanitary sewer?



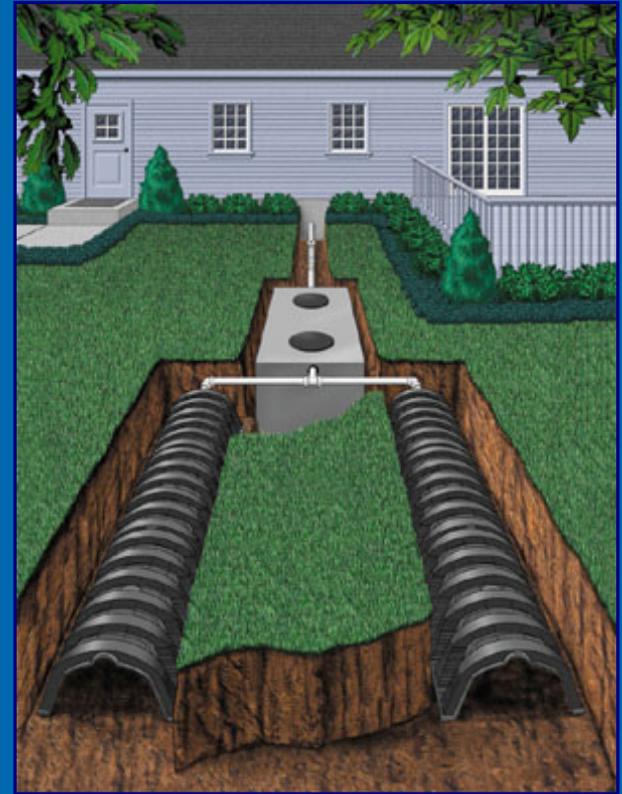
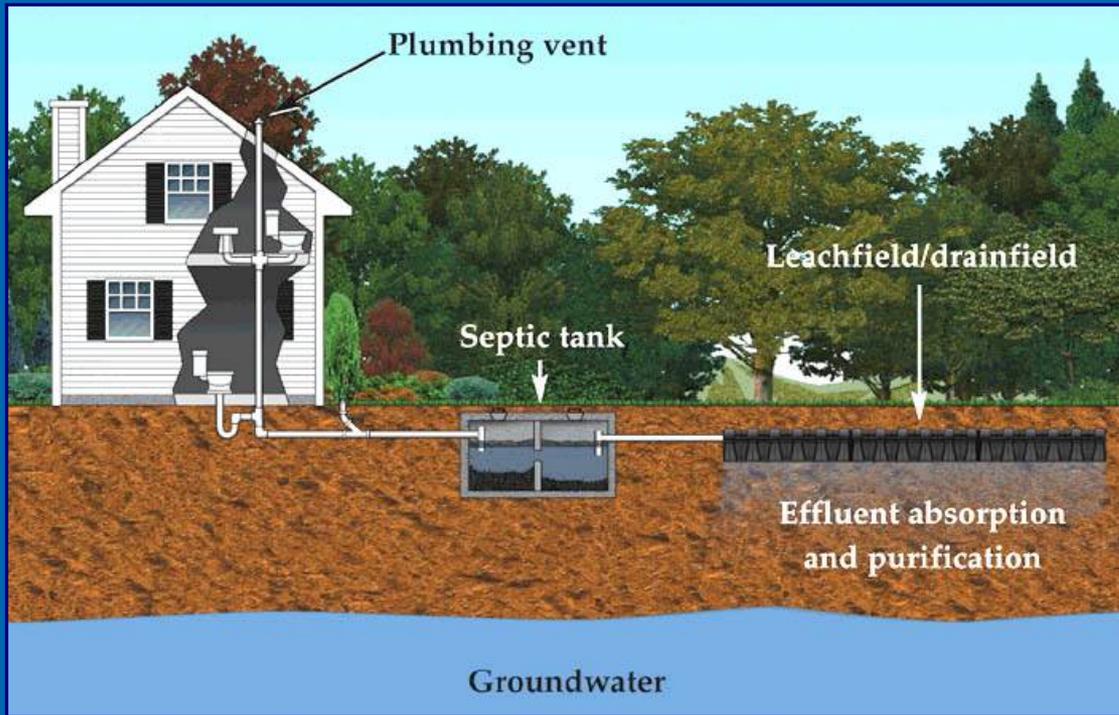
Sanitary sewer and storm sewer

Storm sewers carry rainwater only and the water does not get cleaned or treated.

Sanitary sewers carry wastewater which eventually gets treated and cleaned at the wastewater treatment plant.

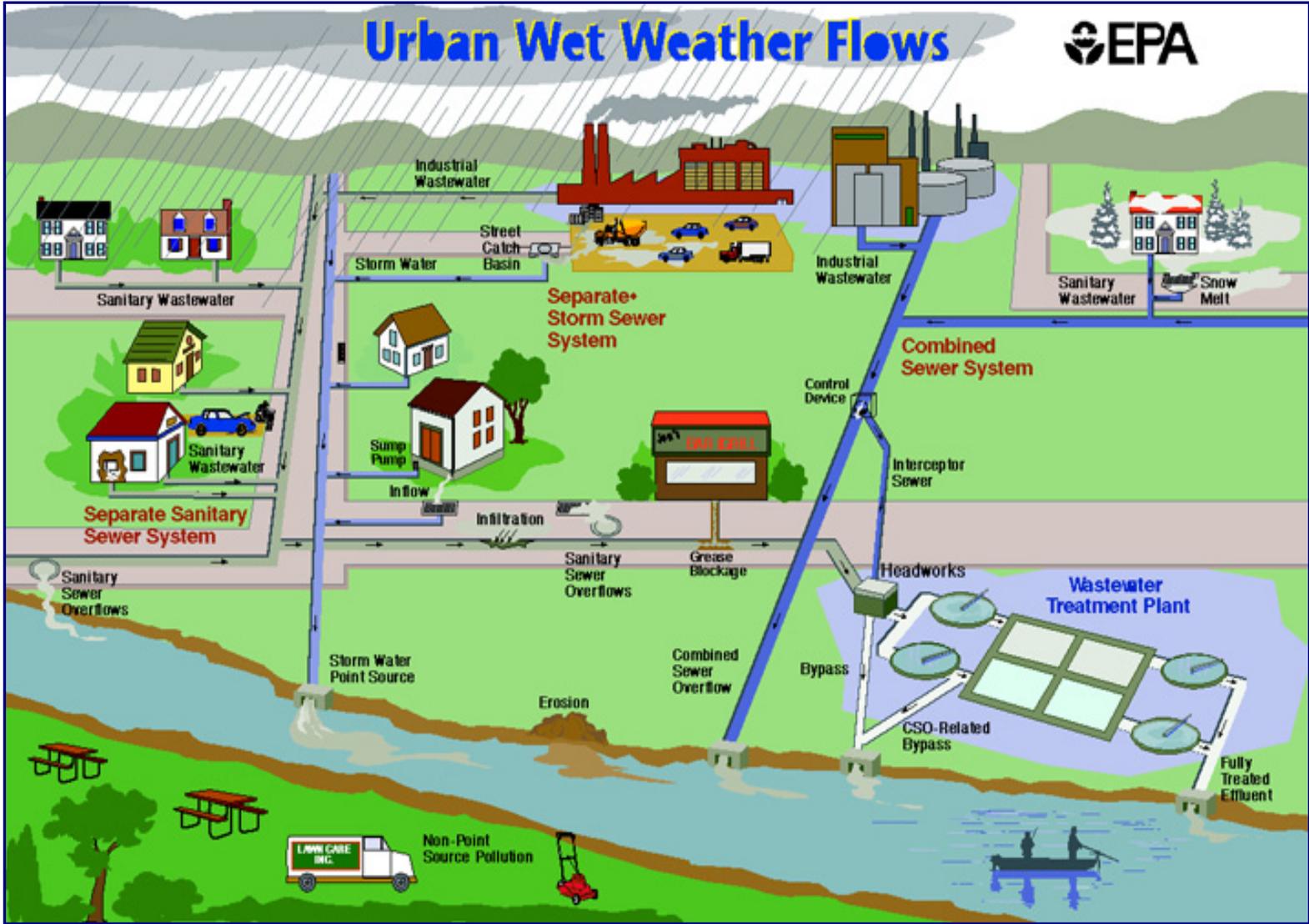


Wastewater Treatment Plant



Some homes have septic tanks. Instead of going to the treatment plant the wastewater is held in a tank and the wastewater is slowly filtered back into the ground.

Urban Wet Weather Flows



Examples of wastewater are:



Toilets



Baths & Showers



Dishwashers



Sinks



Washing machines

Where does the storm sewer take the stormwater?



Storm sewers carry stormwater to places like streams, arroyos, ponds, and rivers.



If you live near the coast the stormwater will end up in the ocean.



Munson Pond



Rio Grande



Burn Lake



The Rio Grande meets the Gulf of Mexico.

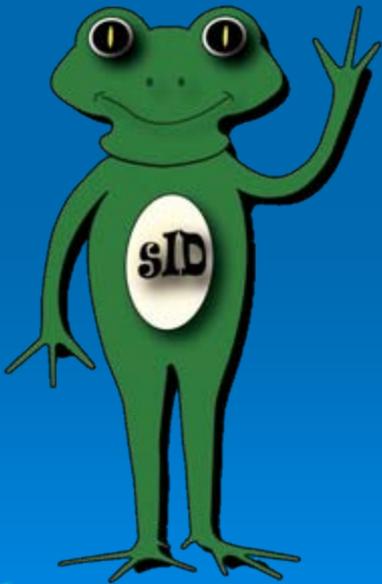
Much of the stormwater doesn't travel through pipes. Most of the stormwater travels down hill along streets, canals and arroyos.





Rivers and ponds are home to many animals that are vulnerable to harmful pollutants that runoff our streets.

Can you name some of the animals that live in our watershed?

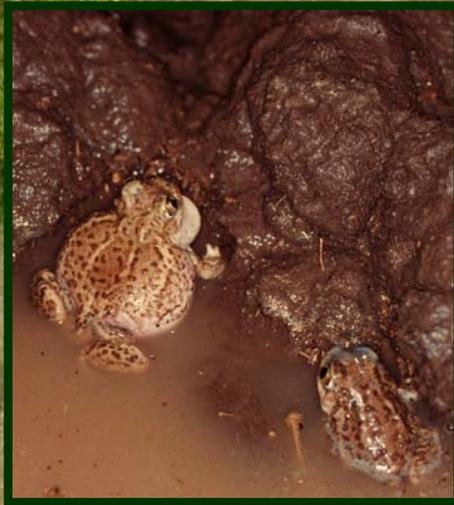




A healthy environment starts with clean water
Only rain should go in the storm drains.

Every animal is effected if the water is polluted.

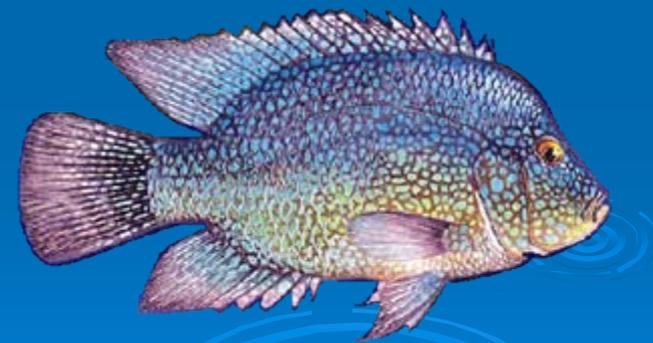
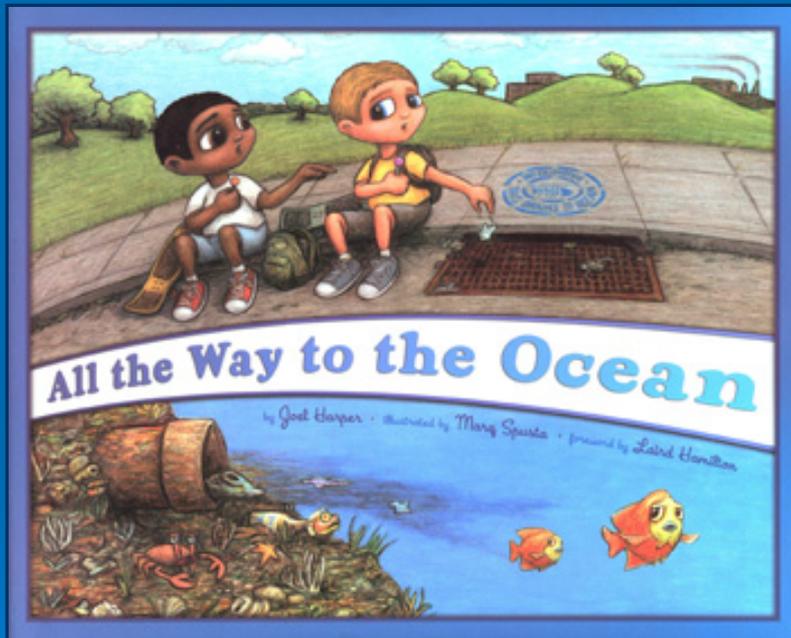
In the summer when ponds and canals get enough stormwater the spadefoot toad will emerge from the ground and you can hear their calls.



Munson Pond

What happens when we
pollute the streets?

If we litter the streets the pollution often ends up in our storm drains and eventually finds its way to the river or other water bodies.





Besides trash what other kinds of pollutants harm our water?





Dirt



Oil and Grease



Pesticides



Yard Waste



Pet Waste

To help reduce stormwater pollution the City cleans the streets and storm drains but this does not remove all of the pollutants.



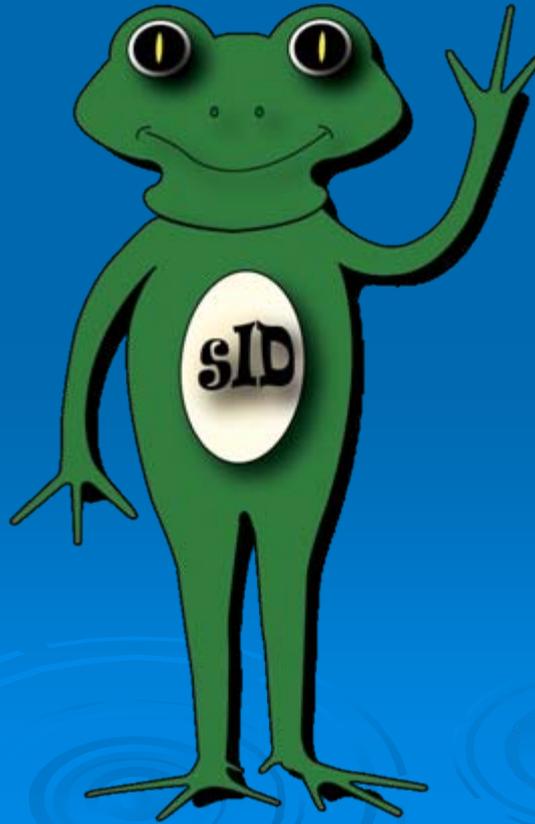
Vactor Truck



Street Sweeper

What can people do to help
stop stormwater pollution?

- Throw your trash in a garbage can.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Recycle
- Wash your car at a commercial wash
- Conserve water





Use the pet waste disposal bags provided at parks but always bring your own bags just in case.

Show some style, scoop up the pile.

An advertisement for pet waste disposal featuring four dogs (a black and white dog, a Boston Terrier, a Boxer, and a Saint Bernard) and a circular logo that reads "KEEP IT CLEAN City of Las Cruces storm water quality It's a NO DRAINER". The City of Las Cruces logo is also present at the bottom right.

City of Las Cruces
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE
Public Works, Engineering Services



Pick up pet waste

Guess what we found in the storm drain?



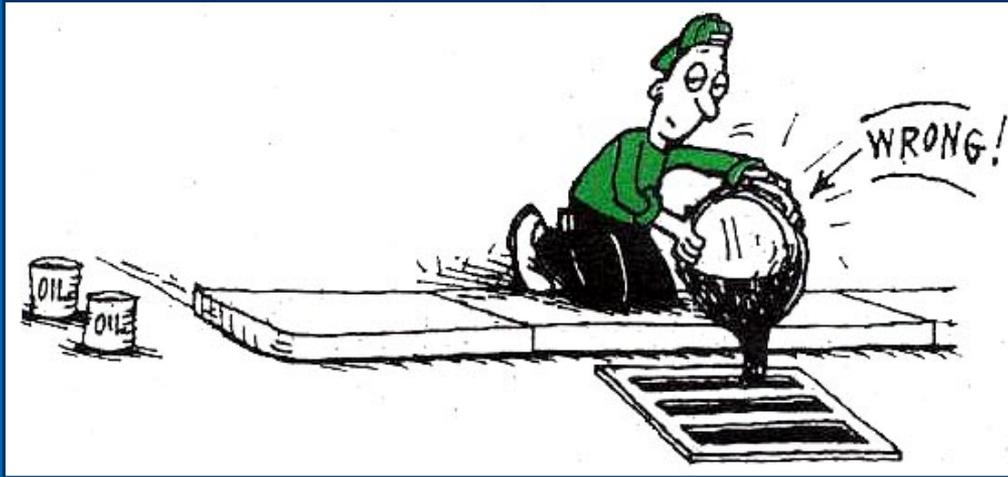
Please put waste in the right place.



If only dogs could pick up
after themselves.



Recycle



Recycle used oil, paint, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals.

WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN
THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE
NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR
IN THE DRIVEWAY.



All the soap, suds, and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters including the Chesapeake Bay. And that causes pollution which is unhealthy for fish. So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Washington Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DWP Bureau of Water Management at 202-737-3441 or visit www.dep.state.wa.gov. Thanks to the Washington State Water Quality Consortium for permission to reuse and edit this poster.

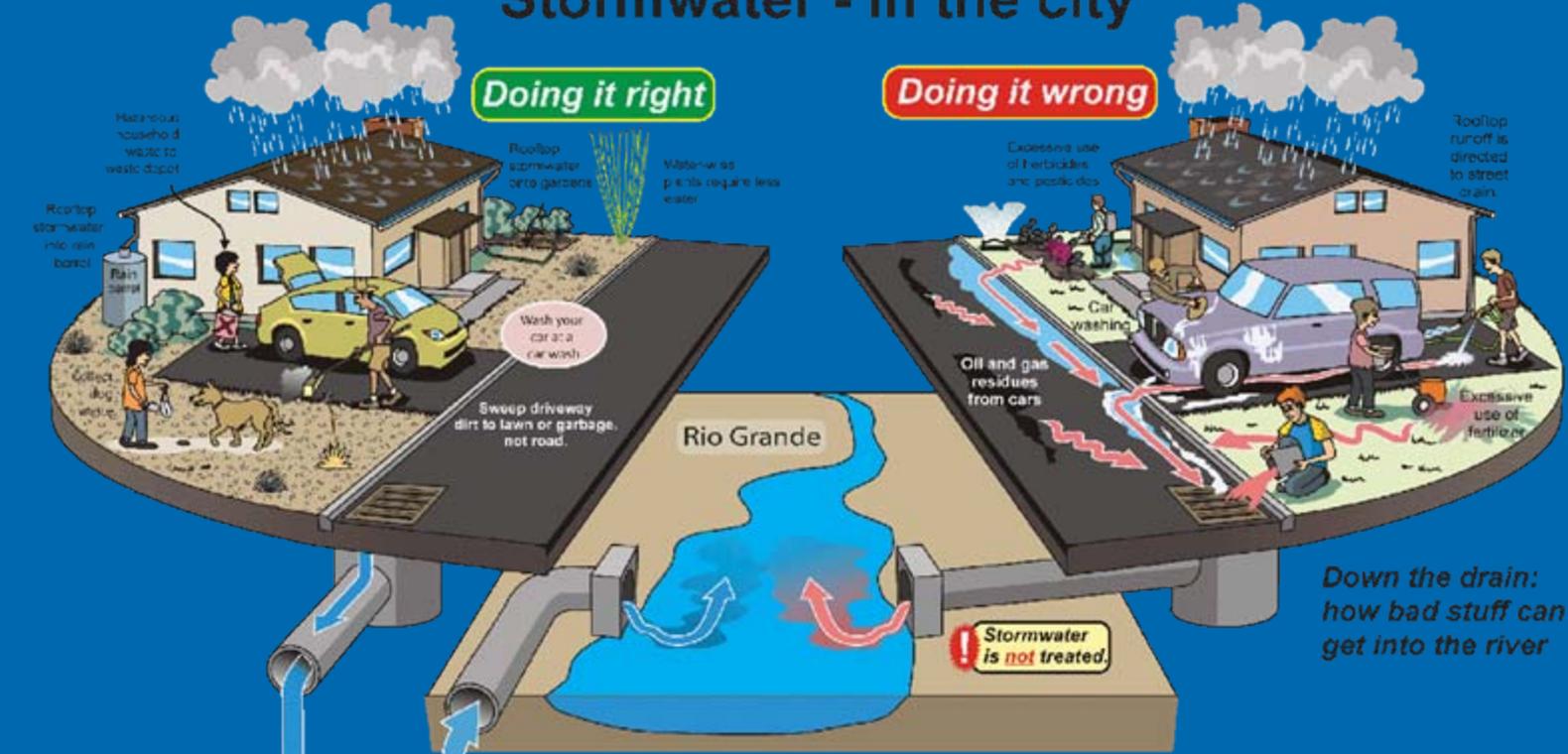


Wash your car at a commercial car wash.

Stormwater - In the city

Doing it right

Doing it wrong



Down the drain:
how bad stuff can
get into the river

Burn Lake



There is a widespread myth that water goes down storm drains and flows to water treatment plants. This is not true. Storm drains are only meant for rainwater and snowmelt. Many street drains flow through pipes straight to the river.