

# STORM WATER

## WHAT IS IT?

Rain and snow melt that runs off surfaces like rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. It carries oil, fertilizers, soil, trash, animal waste and other materials on solid surfaces into the storm drains and to the river.

***Stormwater does not go through the wastewater treatment plant.***

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

It can carry toxic metals, organic compounds, bacteria and viruses into the same waterways that City residents use for recreation and farmers use to irrigate crops. It can cause flooding into neighborhood and businesses when storm drains are filled with debris.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Never pour anything down storm drains**
- **Scoop pet waste and dispose in the garbage**
- **Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides**
- **Direct gutters and downspouts to plants, grass or collection tanks**
- **Wash cars at public car wash or on your lawn**

**City of Yakima (509)575 6077**

