

# Stormwater Pollution

## Affects You

The quality of the water in our streams and rivers is important to the overall environmental health of the City. Our daily activities have potential to affect our water quality.

The city of Petal is located in the Pascagoula River Basin, which includes the Upper and Lower Leaf River Watersheds. Stormwater runoff within the City of Petal drains to the Pascagoula River via the Leaf River and ultimately flows to the Gulf of Mexico.

Stormwater pollution occurs as water flows across the ground and picks up debris, chemicals, soils, and other pollutants and deposits them into a storm drain system or water body. Storm drains are a non-treated system. The water that flows into our storm drains flows into our local streams and rivers and eventually flows to the Gulf of Mexico.

Pollutants are typically introduced into the drainage system through:

- Soils
- Automotive Fluids
- Car Washing
- Yard Debris
- Trash and Litter
- Pesticides/Herbicides
- Paints and Other Chemicals
- Household Hazardous Waste

The quality of the stormwater runoff that leaves our community ultimately affects water quality in one of the largest and most pristine basin systems in the Gulf South. In addition, water quality in the Gulf of Mexico is affected by land use decisions and daily activities that take place within the City of Petal.

For more information contact:

The City of Petal Action Line  
601-575-1926

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Section  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
601-961-5171  
[www.deq.state.ms.us](http://www.deq.state.ms.us)



## Stormwater Management

City of Petal, Mississippi

# Help Manage Stormwater Pollution

The City of Petal residents can help reduce stormwater pollution in the following ways:

- Participate in neighborhood and community cleanup activities.
- Have a concern? Call the City's Action Line at (601) 475-1926.
- Encourage legislation to protect water resources.
- Promote and participate in environmental education.
- Notify City officials if you see conditions or activities that could contribute to stormwater pollution.
- Clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly
- Properly dispose of common household hazardous wastes and chemicals.
- Minimize water waste by turning off faucets when not in use and repairing drips and leaks.
- Educate yourself on the impacts of water quality impairment and stormwater pollution.

## Sources and Impact of Pollutants



Trash and debris in waterways is a significant source of pollution. Trash in water bodies contributes to visual pollution and detracts from the aesthetic qualities of the landscape. It also poses a threat to wildlife and human health (i.e. choking hazards to wildlife and bacteria to humans). Do your part to keep Petal clean and beautiful. Avoid illegal dumping of trash and debris, don't litter, and take advantage of local programs such as cardboard recycling.



Lawn and garden maintenance activities can result in contamination of stormwater through pesticide, soil, and fertilizer runoff. Environmentally friendly landscape management can protect the environment through careful planning and design, routine soil analysis, appropriate soil selection, water use efficiency, use of mulches, and appropriate maintenance.



### Improper Pet Waste Disposal

When pet waste is not properly disposed of, it can wash into nearby water bodies. Storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities, but rather drain directly into lakes and streams. Pet waste has potential to be a significant contributor to water quality impairment. As pet waste decays in a water body, it uses up oxygen, and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can be detrimental to the health of fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth (eutrophication). Eutrophic water becomes cloudy and green, making it unattractive or even prohibitive for swimming and recreation. Pet waste also carries bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can pose risks to human health and threaten wild life.



### Household Hazardous Wastes

Many products found in homes contain chemicals that are potentially harmful to the environment. Hazardous products include solvents, motor oil, batteries, automotive fluids, cleaning products, paints, and other products labeled toxic, flammable or corrosive. Our area hosts an annual household hazardous waste collection day to allow for proper disposal of these materials.