

Stormwater Pollution affects you

What we do in our city and how we treat our environment is important to the quality of water and the eco-system from the City of Petal to the Gulf of Mexico.

The city of Petal is located within the Pascagoula River Basin, which includes the Upper and Lower Leaf Water-sheds. All of the stormwater that falls within the City of Petal drains to the Pascagoula River via Leaf River and ultimately 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 storms will end up in the drainage basins. 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

What that means for us as a community is that 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
601-545-1776

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Section
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
601-961-5171
www.deq.state.ms.us



Stormwater Pollution

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? Write or call your elected representatives to inform them about your concerns
- Encourage legislations 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 droppings and dispose of them properly
- Use opportunities for alternate modes of transportation
- Properly dispose of common household hazardous wastes and chemicals
- Limit your everyday water consumption
- Educate yourself on the impacts of water quality impairment and stormwater pollution.

The Impact of Pollutants



Trash & Litter

Trash and debris in waterways have become significant pollutants, especially in areas where a large volume of trash is generated in a concentrated area. 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). Additionally, trash and debris can clog the intake valves on bad engines, which results in expensive repairs.



Pesticides & Herbicides

Lawn and garden 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, use of practical turf areas, water use efficiency, use of mulches, and appropriate maintenance.



Improper Pet Waste

When pet waste is not properly disposed of, it can wash into nearby water bodies or can be carried by runoff into storm drains. Since storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities, but rather drain directly into lakes and streams, untreated animal feces can become a significant source of runoff pollution. As pet waste decays in a water body, it uses up oxygen, sometimes releasing 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 Waste

Many products found in homes contain chemical ingredients that are potentially harmful to the environment. Hazardous products include solvents, motor oil, battery acid, gasoline, antifreeze, cleaning products, paints, preservatives, and other products labeled toxic, flammable or corrosive.