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#### WHAT IS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT?

Stormwater is rainwater and melted snow that runs off streets, lawns, and other sites. When stormwater is absorbed into the ground, it is filtered and ultimately replenishes aquifers or flows into streams and rivers. In developed areas, however, impervious surfaces such as pavement and roofs prevent precipitation from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, the water runs rapidly into storm drains, sewer systems, and drainage ditches and can cause:

- Downstream flooding
- Infrastructure damage
- Stream bank erosion
- Increased turbidity from erosion
- Habitat destruction
- Changes in the stream flow hydrograph (a graph that displays the flow rate of a stream over a period of time)
- Combined sewer overflows
- Contaminated streams, rivers, and coastal waters

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/oaintrnt/stormwater/index.htm>

#### THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

Pollution in stormwater runoff can have adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment can also destroy aquatic habitats.

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels. Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

Debris such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, cigarette butts washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn can affect human health and increase drinking water costs.

Source: [http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/after\\_the\\_storm.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/after_the_storm.pdf)

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

Walton County has four used oil collection sites:

Paxton EMS Station  
County Shop  
County Landfill  
District 5 Road Office

Did you know?

—If all the oil from American do-it-yourself oil changers were recycled, it would be enough motor oil for more than 50 million cars a year. Imagine how much foreign oil that would eliminate.

## WALTON COUNTY AMNESTY DAY—11/2/2019

Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Days— Walton County Solid Waste offers our citizens an environmentally safe way to dispose of hazardous household waste at no charge. Walton County Amnesty Day is Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the following locations:

Walton County Fairgrounds – Highway 83 North, DeFuniak Springs  
Topsail Hill Preserve State Park – 7525 W County Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach.

Walton County residents may bring the following items to the collection sites for disposal:

- Paints, stains and polyurethanes
- Degreasers, solvents and thinners
- Pool chemicals
- Household cleaners/chemicals
- Motor oil and oil filters
- Transmission and brake fluids
- Grease and other lubricants
- Antifreeze
- Hydraulic fluids
- Gasoline and Diesel
- Tires – maximum of 4 passenger vehicle sized tires per load per event with rims less than 25” in diameter –No truck, tractor or heavy equipment tires
- Automotive style batteries
- Rechargeable batteries
- Fluorescent bulbs and ballast
- Computers, monitors, printers and other electronic devices
- Televisions
- Residential fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides used for home lawn care or gardening.

Farmers: Farmers please use the following link to the Florida DEP Operation Cleansweep for Pesticides for the disposal of your fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides:

<https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/content/operation-cleansweep-pesticides>

Items that will not be accepted at the collection site during the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events may include but are not limited to:

- Any items generated by a business (including home based), government agencies and/or non-profit organizations.

- Ammunition
- Explosives/Fireworks
- Biohazardous Waste
- Medications

\*NOTE: Collection events are for residential/household quantities ONLY and not for businesses of any kind including home based businesses.

Waste from conditionally exempt small quantity generators (ex. schools and small businesses including home based) may be accepted at a discounted rate with prior approval only from the Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator, Jim Reece. Rules and restrictions may apply. Please call (850) 651-7394 for more information and/or to make the arrangements for the disposal of your hazardous waste.

### Resources

Walton County: [www.co.walton.fl.us](http://www.co.walton.fl.us)

Public Works: 850-892-8108

Code Enforcement: 850-622-0000

Extension/IFAS: 850-892-8172

Florida Department of Environmental Protection:

[www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/index.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/index.htm) & [www.protectingourwater.org](http://www.protectingourwater.org)

Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/owow/nps/dosdont.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/dosdont.html)

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance: [www.basinalliance.org](http://www.basinalliance.org)