



A HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION GUIDE TO  
**HEALTHY  
COMMON  
AREAS**



Stormwater runoff in the city of Surprise is largely transported through streets and curbs, open channels, and other conveyances, directly to our community retention/infiltration basins, city parks, washes, and nearby canals.

Stormwater flows and will pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This water generally re-enters the water supply without passing through a treatment plant. So while the city of Surprise on average only receives seven to nine inches of rainfall a year, stormwater quality is still a serious concern.

Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. The practice of healthy household habits by homeowners and the associations that regulate them can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of our stormwater.



Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of **water POLLUTION** in the United States.



**Remember:  
Only Rain  
in the Storm  
Drain**

## Best Management Practices

- » Use pesticides and fertilizers exactly as instructed on the package.
- » Avoid runoff and conserve water. Do not over water. Prevent water waste.
- » Clean walkways and sweep up landscaping waste with a broom; do not use a hose or harmful detergents or cleaners.
- » Report illegal dumping or littered areas.

## RETENTION BASIN MAINTENANCE

### Annually

Note and report signs of erosion, damage to any structures, illegal dumping, and ensure drainage of the retention areas occurs within 36 hours. Aerate the turf in the basin or dethatch.

### Weekly

Remove litter or debris, follow instructions on any pesticides and herbicides (do not overuse chemicals) and inspect the facility for any signs of standing water.

## DRY WELL MAINTENANCE

### Annually

Should be inspected and cleaned, if necessary, by a dry well services company to ensure proper operation and drainage; or the dry well should be inspected if drainage appears slow, if water is standing for more than 36 hours or if the dry well is not draining the basin.

## PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

Get rid of all unnecessary stagnant water by repairing all broken sprinkler systems or other water leaks and fill in the low spots to level the areas that over time collect water and contribute to standing and stagnant water.

**ELIMINATE THE  
MOSQUITO'S  
FAVORITE  
BREEDING SITES!**



# What your **RESIDENTS** can do

It is important to remember pollutants put in the storm drain end up where the neighborhood children play.



## Vehicles

Washing vehicles at home can send oils, detergents, and metal particles (from brakes) into the storm drain. If possible, use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its waste water or use a spray nozzle to limit wash water going into the storm drain.

Check your vehicles and other equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs and clean up spilled fluids with absorbent material like kitty litter or sand. Remember to sweep up and properly dispose of the absorbent material; do not hose it into the street or storm drain.



## Pet care

Clean up after your pet. Pet waste increases public health risks by allowing bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain.

For questions about pollution prevention, to report illegal dumping or to find out about the next city of Surprise Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, please contact

**Water Resource Management Department**  
at 623.222.6200

For regulatory information on dry wells, please contact **ADEQ** at 602.771.2300

For general information on mosquito control, please contact **Maricopa County Vector Control**  
at 602.506.0700

**WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**623.222.6200**

Fax: 623.222.7102

[stormwater@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:stormwater@surpriseaz.gov)



Surprise is a proud member of **STORM**  
(Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities) **STORM**  
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