

Water that runs down the street and into the storm drain and water that empties from your home's sinks and bathrooms both have an impact on our environment.



Thanks for helping us protect our drinking water and our environment.

Environmental Services

## Protecting Red Deer's water

What can I do?

You can take small steps to help us keep our water clean.



**To report illegal dumping, spills, for more information, or if you have a question or comment:**

The City of Red Deer  
Environmental Services department  
403-342-8750  
Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
[environmentalservices@reddeer.ca](mailto:environmentalservices@reddeer.ca)  
[www.reddeer.ca](http://www.reddeer.ca)



## What is the difference between the storm water system and the wastewater collection system?

The storm water system removes rainwater from sidewalks, streets and parking lots and carries it to the Red Deer River.

The wastewater collection system removes wastewater from indoor plumbing fixtures so it can be cleaned at the Wastewater Treatment Plant before it is returned to the Red Deer River.



Allowing or intentionally pouring pollutants into the storm water or wastewater collection systems is illegal.  
**The maximum penalty under the Utility Bylaw is a fine of \$2,500.**

## About our storm water system

- Run-off enters the system through metal grates located along road sides and paved areas.
- Collects snow melt and rainfall runoff.
- Storm water is not treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Litter, mud, leaves and grass clippings can plug storm drains and cause flooding.
- Rainfall runoff washes pollutants into storm water mains and empties polluted water directly into the Red Deer River.
- Common sources of storm water pollution: motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, mud, pet waste, excess fertilizer and pesticides, litter, swimming pool or hot tub water.

## What can you do to prevent storm water pollution?

- Collect litter and animal waste before they wash into storm drains.
- If you must use pesticides and fertilizers, choose organic products, apply them sparingly and don't overwater your lawn.
- Wash your car on grass so dirt is filtered by the lawn and use biodegradable, phosphate-free soap. Better yet, go to a car wash.
- Ensure your vehicle doesn't leak oil or other fluids. Do not wash spills down the storm drains.
- Empty your swimming pool or hot tub water into your floor drain, rather than outside. This water contains chlorine and other chemicals that will harm fish and other aquatic life.

## About our wastewater collection system

- Collects wastewater from toilets, sinks and household appliances.
- Wastewater is treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant before returning to the Red Deer River.
- Wastewater discharges are regulated by Alberta Environment.
- Wastewater treatment is not designed to remove pharmaceuticals, hydrocarbons or complex chemicals.
- Hazardous substances may damage equipment and cause problems in the treatment process.
- Common sources of wastewater contamination are paint, chemicals, cooking oil, pharmaceuticals and household cleaners that are washed down the drain.

## What can you do to prevent pollution in our wastewater collection system?

- Dispose of household hazardous waste such as paint, chemicals and household cleaners at the Red Deer Waste Management Facility.
- Never flush pharmaceuticals down the toilet. Take unused medications to a pharmacy for proper disposal.
- Take used motor oil to Wal-Mart or Canadian Tire, which are approved collection depots. The City of Red Deer cannot accept used motor oil at the Waste Management Facility.
- Do not dump grease or cooking oil down the drain. It will solidify as it moves through the pipes and cause blockages in your own service line.

Remember that even if you do not live near a water body, the storm water collection system will carry excess fertilizers and pesticides from your yard to the Red Deer River.

