

POTENTIAL PROBLEM

SOLUTION

MOTOR OIL

Motor oil is banned from Minnesota and North Dakota landfills. 1 quart of motor oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water (more than 30 people drink in a lifetime!) It can also create an 8-acre slick causing wildlife and aquatic creatures harm.

Store used oil in a sealed labeled container (do not mix with other products) and take it to a retail outlet that recycles oil. Used oil can also be brought to either Fargo's or Clay County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facilities.

ANTIFREEZE

Antifreeze is toxic. Because it tastes sweet, it is especially tempting to small children and pets. Used antifreeze also contains heavy metals from engine wear, such as lead and benzene that pose environmental hazards.

If your household is connected to a municipal sewer system, you can flush used antifreeze down the toilet. Never flush it if you have a septic system or pour it down a storm drain.

YARD WASTE

Yard wastes such as grass clippings and leaves add nutrients to lakes and streams. Yard waste also clog storm drains, rendering them ineffective and causing localized flooding.

Yard waste cannot be disposed of in local landfills. Compost yard waste at home, leave grass clippings on your lawn (mulching) or contact the City of Moorhead Compost Site (218-299-5464) (www.cityofmoorhead.com) or take to one of Fargo's compost/recycling drop-off locations. (www.cityoffargo.com/solidwaste)

DEICER-SALT

Salt used for deicing sidewalks and driveways is carried with spring melting water into drains, causing problems for fish, wildlife and vegetation. Some salt can also cause damage to concrete.

Shovel walks and driveways promptly before snow is compacted into ice. Use sand, grit, or calcium magnesium acetate instead of sodium chloride. If you use salt, use it sparingly.

PAINT

Many paint products can harm people, wildlife and the environment when thrown out or disposed of improperly. Some oil-based paints contain toxic chemicals and hazardous vapors.

Donate good used paint to neighbors or community groups, or households may bring latex or oil based paints to the Clay County or City of Fargo's HHW facilities during their hours of operation. (April thru October)

LAWN CHEMICALS

Insecticides and herbicide carried by runoff from lawns and gardens to storm drains can kill or damage the health or reproduction of aquatic plants, insects or fish. Nutrients in fertilizer can cause algae blooms and plant growth that make the water unpleasant for recreation and reduce oxygen levels.

Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to make sure it's needed and then use the appropriate amount following directions carefully.

- Never spread chemicals across sidewalks or driveways.
- Sweep up spills.
- Don't apply chemicals before a rain.
- Use Phosphorus free fertilizer.

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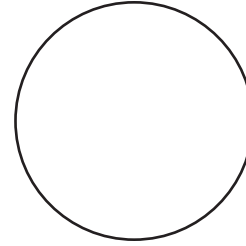
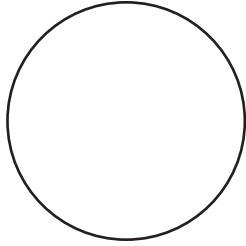
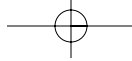
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DID YOU SEE THIS MESSAGE NEAR A STORM DRAIN?

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It's a reminder to keep pollutants off streets, driveways and sidewalks and out of our storm drains.

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Storm Drains: The grated openings in the street that collect water from rain and melting snow to minimize street flooding. Anything on streets or driveways eventually washes into drains and is carried directly to the Red River without treatment.

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Rainwater often carries street debris - trash, leaves, grass clipping, pet wastes, car fuels - into storm drains. Also pesticides, paints, antifreeze and used motor oil can end up in the storm drains when people dispose of them improperly. Remember, we get most of our drinking water from the river.

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TOGETHER WE CAN PROTECT THE RED RIVER!

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SPONSORS

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- City of Moorhead - (www.ci.moorhead.mn.us)
- City of Fargo - (www.ci.fargo.nd.us)
- River Keepers - (www.riverkeepers.org)
- Moorhead Public Service - (www.mpsutility.com)
- Clay County Household Hazardous Waste - (www.clay.mn.us)
- Cargill - (www.Cargill.com)
- The Conservation Fund - (www.conservationfund.org)
- Clay County Soil & Water Conservation District - Local Water Plan

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For more information on storm drains:
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Environmental Protection Agency - www.epa.gov

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