



**Did you see this message near a storm drain?**

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

Storm drains are the grated openings in the street that collect water from rain and melting snow to minimize street flooding. As stormwater flows along streets, it collects trash, leaves, grass clippings, pet waste, car fuels and other pollutants into storm drains. Pesticides, paints, antifreeze, and used motor oil can end up in the storm drains when people dispose of them improperly. This is an illicit discharge and is against city ordinances.

**Together we can protect the Red River which is our drinking water supply!**



[www.cityoffargo.com](http://www.cityoffargo.com)



[www.cityofmoorhead.com](http://www.cityofmoorhead.com)



[www.riverkeepers.org](http://www.riverkeepers.org)



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## Potential Problem

### Motor Oil

Motor oil is banned from Minnesota and North Dakota landfills. One 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.

## Solution

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.

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### 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.

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### Yard Waste

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

Yard waste should not be disposed of in local landfills. Compost yard waste at home, leave grass clippings on your lawn, or contact the City of Moorhead compost site or take to one of Fargo's compost/recycling drop-off locations.

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### Deicer—Salt

Salt used for deicing sidewalks and driveways is carried with 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.

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### 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, community groups or households may bring paint to the Clay County HHW (April thru October) or City of Fargo's HHW facility.

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### Lawn Chemicals

Insecticides and herbicides 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 reception and reduce oxygen levels.

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

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

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