# WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS. AND IT HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE

### Water from inside our homes goes to a wastewater facility for purification.

But water from roofs, streets, and outdoor spigots goes untreated directly into storm drains – straight to our waterways – picking up all

### kinds of contaminants along the way!

DID YOU

KNOW

Excess nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, pollute stormwater run-off from urban areas, contributing to the third greatest cause of

lake deterioration in the US.

DID YOU

## KNOW

The amount of phosphorus in grass clippings from mowing your lawn just once can produce up to

**100 lbs.** of unwanted algae

if it ends up in our lakes and ponds.

DID YOU

## KNOW

Leaf “litter” and landscape trash accounts for **56%** of phosphorus in urban stormwater, not to

DID YOU

Just one pound of fertilizer over-application on the average

mention clogging storm drains, causing

potential flooding and increasing debris in our waterways.

## KNOW

lawn can equate to **34.2 lbs.** of excess algae growth in streams and lakes.

DID YOU

## KNOW

When you wash your car in the driveway, you’re washing about **120 gallons** of

DID YOU

## KNOW

If dog owners don’t clean up after their pooches,

grime-filled water downstream. The soap,

together with the dirt, grease and grime flows untreated into nearby storm drains, which runs directly

into lakes and streams.

WHY IT

MATTERS

**390 million pounds** of poop can wash into our waterways every year just in Colorado! Dog waste contains 10% phosphates and 2% nitrates,

contributing to algae growth.

Too many nutrients in streams and lakes cause rapid growth of algae.

Algae looks bad, smells bad, degrades water quality

and can be harmful to your health.

As algae decays, it uses up oxygen in the water, leading to a decline in our

ter quality –

drinking wa

and makes it more expensive to treat.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

Dispose Properly

* Compost or bag your leaves and lawn clippings
* Don’t blow leaves or lawn clippings into the street
* Sweep up any spills or overspray of fertilizers on sidewalks or streets

recommendations. More isn’t better!

* Fertilizing in the early fall promotes healthy root systems – leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants

Fertilize Efficiently

* Always follow the manufacturer’s application

Be Car Smart

* Use a commercial car wash, where water is recycled and sent to treatment facilities
* Wash your car on the lawn or gravel
* Dump your soapy bucket in the sink

Pick It Up & Pitch It

* Clean up dog waste and dispose properly

For more information and tips to preserve our waterways, visit

colorado-stormwater-council.org