

Make a Difference at Home- Reduce Your Stormwater Runoff



➔ Use a rain barrel

Instead of allowing water from the roof to go downslope, collect the water in a rain barrel. The stored water can be used for a variety of things such as watering plants. Additionally, storing the stormwater reduces the risk of soggy yards or basement flooding when done properly.



➔ Establish a rain garden

A slight depression in the ground will allow water to collect and slowly infiltrate into the soil. Plants that can tolerate saturated soils will quickly grow, enhancing the benefits of the rain garden even more. Many of these species have a great aesthetic appeal for yards.



➔ Mow at a higher setting

Allowing the grass to be at least 3 inches greatly enhances its ability to filter runoff. It also provides many advantages to homeowners. Weeds are drastically reduced when grass is higher, the grass is more drought resistant, and higher grasses have a more vibrant color. Overall, the lawn will become much more consistent.



➔ Cover exposed soil

Depending on slope and soil type, bare soil can be nearly impervious. Additionally, high volumes of runoff can quickly wash away loose soil if it is not covered. Covering soil with mulch, wood chips, or gravel stabilizes the soil and allows some of the runoff to filter into the ground.



➔ Add more shrubs and trees

Since the root systems on both shrubs and trees are much larger than grasses, more runoff can be effectively absorbed. In addition to reducing stormwater runoff, adding shrubs and trees can reduce yardwork normally required by grassy or mulched areas. They also act as great habitat for wildlife, and in some cases provide seasonal fruits.