

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CAUSES OF OUR POLLUTION?

Construction

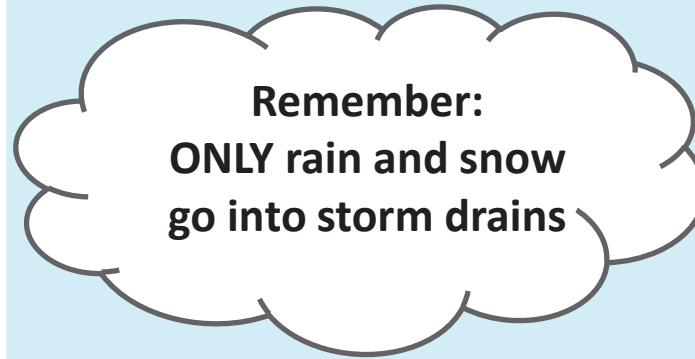
- Contractors improperly disposing of concrete washout into storm drains or drainage ditches.
- Sediment washing into gutters and streets from job sites.

Around the House

- Cleaning brushes or rinsing paint containers into the gutter.
- Homeowners over-fertilizing lawns or using pesticides and herbicides improperly.
- Car washing in the driveway or street.
- Pouring cooking grease and oils down storm drains.

Motor Vehicles

- Vehicles leaking oil and gas onto the streets.
- Spills of oil and fuel during maintenance and refueling.
- Cracked batteries.
- Improper disposal of antifreeze, old tires and batteries.
- Off-road vehicles tracking mud onto paved streets.



**Working together,
we can make
a difference!**

**To report a spill
CALL 911
(Tell the operator you
are on Fort Carson)**



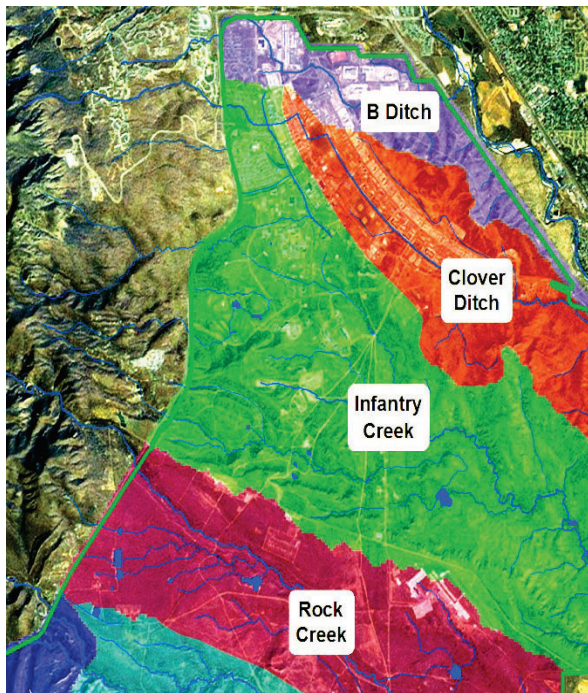
**Keep
Our
Streams
Clean**



**Fort Carson Stormwater Program
719-526-1697**

<https://www.carson.army.mil/organizations/dpw.html>

At Fort Carson, the sanitary sewer system (wastewater) and the storm drain system (stormwater) are two separate systems. Inlets to the storm drain system are typically located outside along the gutters, curbs, and streets. Rainwater and snowmelt (stormwater) enter the storm drain inlets and flow directly to our creeks and ditches. These creek systems then discharge into Fountain Creek, just east of Fort Carson.



Mud, oil, soap, and trash that are tracked, spilled, poured, or dumped onto our streets and parking lots get picked up by stormwater and can enter the storm drain system. Natural areas also contribute sediment (mud) through the process of erosion. This pollution then flows untreated into our creeks and ditches, causing adverse impacts to water quality. Aquatic life struggles to survive, and drinking water for people downstream is harder to purify.



Did you know – ONE quart of oil can contaminate over 250,000 gallons of water?

To keep our streams clean, it is important that **ONLY** stormwater goes into storm drains. Discharges of fuels, cooking oil, mud, debris and trash should be prevented!



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- 👉 Wash your car at the car wash (the water is usually recycled). If you wash your car at home, do so in a grassy area where the soapy water will soak into the ground and not flow into the storm drains. Be sure to use a non-toxic, phosphate-free, or biodegradable soap.
 - 👉 Do not rinse oil spills with water. Instead, apply kitty litter or dry absorbent material, sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash.
 - 👉 Follow the manufacturer's directions when applying pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers. Do not apply the product if rain is expected within the next 48 hours.
 - 👉 Do not rake or blow leaves or grass clippings into the storm drains. Instead, try composting, mulching, or simply bagging your yard waste for disposal.
 - 👉 Use water-based, biodegradable cleaning products.
 - 👉 Do not litter! **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**
- To dispose of old paint, pesticides, and other household hazardous waste items, contact the El Paso County Hazardous Household Waste Facility at 719-520-7878
<https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/environmental-division/household-hazardous-waste/>