



Do you picture this as the main source of water pollution?



Maybe you should picture this instead.

More Information About Non-Point Source Pollution

As an area is developed, [storm water runoff](#) increases. Land once covered by vegetation is cleared as roads, shops and houses are built. Rainwater previously absorbed by the land and plants now falls onto these impervious surfaces and flows to the nearest storm drain, picking up and carrying pollutants to the nearest stream or river. As storm water runoff increases, so does the potential for non-point source pollution.

Types of Pollutants and Their Effects

Type	Source	Effects
Nutrients	Fertilizers, septic tanks, sewer leaks, animal waste	Cause algae blooms, reduce oxygen in the water, favor the survival of less desirable fish species, health problems, degrade recreational activities, lower property values
Sediment	Construction sites and areas where land is disturbed	Reduces flood buffering abilities of wetlands, affects respiration and digestion in aquatic animals, decreases spawning habitat, increases water treatment costs, transport of other contaminants, decreases light transmission through the water
Metals	Landfills, paint pigments, batteries, outdoor storage	Accumulate in animal tissue, build up in pipes therefore reducing carrying capacity, affect bottom-feeding organisms and predators, health hazards
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Human and animal waste	Beach closures, shellfish bed closures, health hazards.