



### Virginia Department of Transportation

1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[www.virginiadot.org/stormwater](http://www.virginiadot.org/stormwater)

### VDOT Customer Service Center

Phone: 1-800-FOR-ROAD  
[my.vdot.virginia.gov](http://my.vdot.virginia.gov)

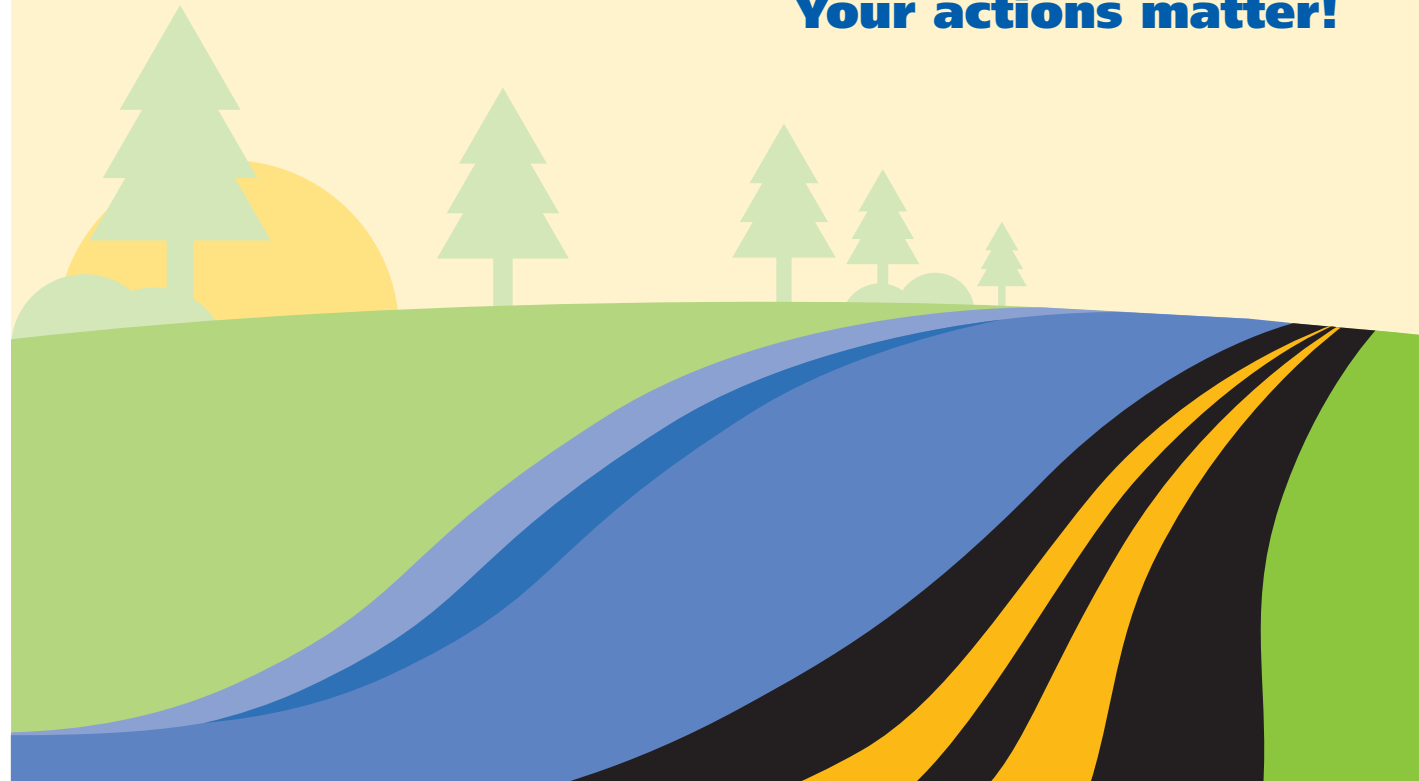
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# Help VDOT Keep Pollution and Litter Out of Our Waterways

## Reduce Pollution with These Everyday Tips

- Dispose of trash properly.
- Keep transportation corridors free of pollution.
- Plant and maintain native vegetation.
- Install rain barrels to collect runoff from your roof.
- Spread mulch or compost around plants at least once a year.
- Minimize the use of fertilizers and other lawn chemicals.
- Retrieve pet waste and dispose of it in the trash.
- Repair vehicle leaks and use caution when replenishing vehicle fluids to avoid spills.
- Dispose of paints, solvents, cleaners and other waste products at hazardous waste facilities.
- NEVER dump any waste products or other hazardous materials into storm drains, gutters, street grates or any other potential outfall.
- Educate family, friends and acquaintances about stormwater management and good pollution prevention practices.

## Your actions matter!



## Stormwater Runoff and Management

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is committed to ensuring that stormwater runoff from all of its roadways and facilities comply with federal and state environmental regulatory requirements. But we can't reduce pollution alone!

Stormwater runoff is rainwater and melted snow that runs off the surface of streets, lawns, farms, construction sites and industrial sites.

In undeveloped areas, most stormwater runoff is absorbed into the ground. What is not absorbed ultimately flows into streams and rivers. In developed areas, impermeable surfaces such as pavement and buildings prevent stormwater runoff from naturally being absorbed by the ground. Instead, it runs into storm drains, drainage ditches and ultimately streams, rivers and the ocean.

Stormwater runoff has the potential to cause downstream flooding and stream bank erosion. Bacteria and other pollutants can contaminate streams, rivers and wetlands if not properly managed or treated.

## Notice Something Funny in the Water? Call us!

All of the water where you live belongs to a watershed, which is an area that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins or seas.

VDOT's Illicit Discharge Detection Elimination (IDDE) Program is designed to both help protect and improve the health of our natural waterways such as the James River, the Potomac River, the New River and the Chesapeake Bay by actively investigating and removing contaminants that affect water quality. These contaminants are called Illicit Discharges. Illicit Discharges also impact our local creeks and streams that ultimately flow to larger bodies of water.

Many of VDOT's transportation corridors lead to the Chesapeake Bay. Help VDOT keep these transportation corridors from becoming pollution corridors for trash, sediment and nutrients.

Call us if you detect something funny in the water near a storm drain or ditch. Here are some clues that might indicate an illicit discharge in local waterways:

- Colors - brown, gray, yellow, green, orange and red
- Turbidity - cloudiness and apparent sediment
- Floating Materials - trash, sewage, foam, grease and oil sheens
- Odors - foul, rancid, sour, sulfurous, petroleum, chemical or other odors



What should you do if you see an illicit discharge? Report it to VDOT's Customer Service Center at **1-800-FOR-ROAD** or online at **[my.vdot.virginia.gov](https://my.vdot.virginia.gov)**.