

Remember, it ALL Drains to our Lakes and Rivers

Storm drains and roadside ditches lead to our lakes and rivers. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and rivers without being treated. With almost five million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains. How can you help? Simple.

- **Sweep it.** Do you have extra fertilizer, grass clippings, or dirt on your driveway or sidewalk? Sweep it back onto your lawn. Hosing your driveway sends these pollutants into storm drains that lead directly to our lakes and rivers.
- **Keep it clean.** Whether in the street or in your yard, remember to keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers away from storm drains.
- **Only rain in the drain.** Never dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, dirty or soapy water, or anything else down the storm drain. All of these materials pollute our lakes and rivers!
- **Label it.** Volunteer to label the storm drains in your neighborhood to inform residents that storm drains flow directly to our lakes and rivers. Call your local community for more information on storm drain stenciling programs.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and rivers, visit www.semco.org. Remember, our water is our future—and it's ours to protect!