only rain in the storm drain

Clark County
water quality
program

so… what now?

After reading through this brochure, you should now have a better understanding of polluted runoff in our community. Think about what you've learned next time you take your dog for a walk, wash your car, or plan a boating trip to Lake Mead. Management of polluted runoff is not difficult; it simply takes a little bit of knowledge and a few small changes to our routines.

remember…

it's your water… protect it!

For more information on polluted runoff in Clark County, visit www.clarkcountynv.gov – keyword: water quality, or call the Clark County Water Quality Team at (702) 668-8674.

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Clark County, Nevada

Clark County water quality program

The quality of Southern Nevada's water is important to the future of our community. In addition to having enough water, it is essential that the water be of good quality to support swimming, fishing, drinking, irrigating, and other uses. While we've made a lot of progress in cleaning up specific sources of pollutants, everyday activities in our community continue to affect water quality.

In the Las Vegas Valley, rainwater that falls onto streets, driveways, lawns, etc., is channeled into the storm drain and flows *untreated* to Lake Mead, our primary source of drinking water. As this water flows across the Valley, it picks up discarded trash and pollutants from our cars, our lawn fertilizers, our pets, and many of our other activities.

but wait a minute! we live in a desert, right?

Yes, we do. That doesn't mean we don't get rain. In fact, rainfall in Southern Nevada doesn't just come in gentle drizzles with no runoff. Rainfall in our area often comes during brief but intense storms, with significant amounts of rainfall occurring in a short time frame. Desert soils also have poor water infiltration rates, meaning they don't readily absorb water, so that much of the water from a storm may move as surface runoff, collecting pollutants as it flows.

how do we help?

Each resident of Clark County can help protect the quality of Lake Mead, the Valley's main source of drinking water, with these simple fixes:

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Repair auto leaks.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil,etc.),and batteries at designated collection or recycling locations.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas.
- Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.
- Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- Dispose of trash in trash receptacles.