

Help Keep Sediment Out of Our Waterways

Stormwater Pollutants

Sediment is a natural material like sand, silt, and clay that are broken down from soil by erosion and weathering. Sediment can come from soil erosion, the decomposition of plants and animals, and construction activities. Sediment can range in size from tiny soil particles to gravels. Sediment can be transported by water, wind, or ice.

When it rains, stormwater runoff flows across construction sites and our streets, carrying these pollutants through storm drains into our lakes and bayous. The pollutants can cause a lot of environmental damage.



The Problems with Sediment

- Sediment can accumulate in storm drains and catch basins, which increases the potential for flooding.
- Sediment can make the water more turbid and affect the vision of aquatic animals.
- Sediment can enter fish gills, reducing their resistance to disease, lowering their growth rates, and affecting fish egg and larvae development.
- Murky water can prevent natural vegetation from growing in water by blocking sunlight and affecting photosynthesis.
- Sediment in stream beds can disrupt the natural food chain by destroying the habitats of various organisms.
- Sediment increases the cost of treating drinking water and can result in odor and taste problems.
- Sediment can carry nutrients that can cause algae blooms and affect water quality.
- Sediment can carry other pollutants such as heavy metals, organic chemicals, bacteria, and pathogens into the waterways.

How You can Help

- Sweep the sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them off to prevent sediment and other pollutants from entering the storm drains.
- Use weed-free mulch when reseeding bare spots on your lawn and use a straw blanket for erosion control if restarting or tilling a lawn.
- Put compost or weed-free mulch on your garden to help keep soil from washing away.
- Notify the District when you see sediment entering streets or streams near a construction site.



Customer Hotline

Contact the District by calling our customer hotline at 281-290-6500 for any questions or more information.

