

How USAFA residents can help reduce water pollution

Stormwater is generated when there is precipitation that falls to the ground and can infiltrate or can become surface runoff. This water can become contaminated with pollutants (i.e. chemicals, pathogens, sediment) that it comes in contact with and can impact streams, lakes, and groundwater. Improving and ensuring water quality by eliminating pollutants that could be exposed to stormwater runoff is everyone's responsibility. The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron has asked residents on base to help reduce water pollution by following these steps:

- Lawn Maintenance -- Minimize application of fertilizer, pesticide or fungicide, which could be transported into stormwater sewer systems.
- Municipal Trash -- Dispose of trash into designated waste containers with a secure lid. Pick up and dispose of municipal trash whenever you can, whether on or off base. Recycle materials at your homes and workplaces. Recycling containers are available near the Base Exchange for cardboard, paper, aluminum, glass and plastic.
- Household Hazardous Waste -- The Academy's Hazardous Waste Facility will accept off-base generated used vehicle oil and useable household materials such as paints, cleaners and antifreeze from government ID cardholders. The facility is located at Building 8125 and is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For disposal questions, call 333-3852 during these hours. El Paso County also operates a household hazardous waste drop-off facility at 3255 Akers Drive in Colorado Springs.
- Car Washing/ Maintenance -- Don't wash or maintain your car at home; take it to the Academy auto hobby shop or off base. Fund-raising car washes should be approved by the 10th CES' Water Quality Manager.

- Mission and Service Support Activities -- Various materials, including oils, lubricants and cleaners can impact receiving water quality if left exposed to stormwater. Use every reasonable precaution when performing day-to-day work duties to eliminate pollutants released into the environment which may come into contact with storm water.
- Educating Future Generations -- Talk to your children about eliminating pollutants that could be exposed to stormwater and its benefits to the environment.

For additional information, call the Dan Follett at 333-8367.