

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT STORMWATER POLLUTION?

The following questionnaire is provided for you to self-test your knowledge of storm water pollution and encourage you to be part of the solution! (The statistics below were developed based on studies in other areas.)

1. Approximately how many residents pour something into the gutter or down a storm drain each month?

- A. Less than 3,500 residents each month
- B. Between 12,500 and 17,500 residents each month
- C. More than 25,000 residents each month

Answer: 12,500-17,500 residents

Solution: Recycle all hazardous waste including used motor oil, antifreeze and radiator fluid, paints, pesticides and household cleaners. Don't dump them into the storm drain - it's illegal. Call 303-316-6262 to learn how to dispose of household hazardous materials properly at the City-sponsored Rooney Road Recycling Center.

2. How many cigarette butts would you guess residents drop on the ground each month?

- A. Less than 7,500 butts per month
- B. Between 35,000 and 45,000 butts per month
- C. More than 90,000 butts per month

Answer: 90,000 butts per month

Solution: Throw cigarette butts in an ashtray or trashcan, not the ground. When cigarette butts are dropped on the ground, they end up in the storm drain system. When it rains, cigarette butts flow into the streams and rivers, making area waterways a gigantic ashtray and killing aquatic life.

3. Approximately how many times each month will dog owners walk their dogs and leave the waste lying on the ground?

- A. Less than 1,000 times each month
- B. Between 5,000 and 6,000 times each month
- C. More than 8,000 times each month

Answer: 8,000 times

Solution: Pick up after your dog. Animal waste contains disease-causing pathogens that, when left on the ground, wash down the storm drains and contaminate gulches. Animal waste can increase the risk of viral infections especially after it rains. When you take

your pet out for a walk or to the park, don't forget to bring a bag or other container. There are local ordinances in effect and dog owners disregarding these laws may be fined.

4. How many times per month would you guess that residents drop litter on the ground or out their car windows?

- A. Less than 5,000 times each month
- B. Between 25,000 and 30,000 times each month
- C. More than 80,000 times each month

Answer: Between 25,000 and 30,000 times

Solution: Don't throw litter and yard waste into the street. Trash-laden gutters are double trouble. Not only is neighborhood pollution increased, clogged gutters can cause street flooding when it rains and it's unsafe for commuters and children at play.

5. How many times each month would you guess residents over water their lawns or gardens and let the water run into the street?

- A. Less than 2,500 times each month
- B. Between 10,000 and 15,000 times each month.
- C. More than 35,000 times each month.

Answer: More than 35,000 times each month

Solution: Never apply pesticides and fertilizers when you expect precipitation. You will not only lose the fertilizer or pesticide, but in heavy rain may also be harming the environment. Excessive use of fungicides, insecticides and fertilizers, and improper landscaping practices contribute to storm water pollution because the toxic chemicals cause health risks for people and kill aquatic life.