

>>> LCSC PRESENTS <<<

WATER WATCH

Keeping you informed about local stormwater issues and LCSC activities



The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC) is comprised of the following communities: Lexington County, Cities of Cayce and West Columbia, and the Towns of South Congaree, Springdale, Irmo, Pine Ridge, and Lexington.

We seek to protect the natural resources in Lexington County from pollution caused by residential and business activities. We accomplish this by the following:

- (1) Creating a model collaborative water quality education program,
- (2) Fostering citizen involvement and encouraging behavioral change, and
- (3) Enforcing state and local stormwater regulations.

Through these accomplishments, we strive to achieve clean and healthy streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

**RAKE
RESPONSIBLY**



READ MORE ON PG. 1

Why you should leave the leaves this fall.

READ MORE ON PG. 2
Facts and Fiction
are revealed!



**STORMWATER
SHENANIGANS**

**I SPY STORMWATER
POLLUTANTS**



READ MORE ON PG. 3

The hunt for stormwater pollutants is on!

READ MORE ON PG. 4 & PG. 5
You won't want to miss this!



**UPCOMING EVENTS,
INFO, & FYIS**

RAKE RESPONSIBLY

>>> Keeping the storm drains clear this fall

With fall quickly approaching, it's time to talk about leaves! While it has become common practice to remove fallen leaves from our lawns, you may be missing out on some natural benefits and even hurting local ecosystems in the process. If you don't manage your leaves properly, they can become a nuisance to the stormwater systems during fall rain events. While this may not seem like a big deal, even organic matter can have a negative impact on our waterways when it occurs in excess. The leaves and debris that end up in the storm drains can cause nutrient spikes in receiving bodies of water which can then undergo eutrophication and devastating algal blooms as a result. This not only affects water quality but also all of the aquatic life that inhabits these rivers, lakes, and streams.



Tips For Managing Leaf Litter

Here are some things you can do to reduce stormwater pollution:

- Avoid blowing or raking leaves into the street. Keep all fallen leaves and grass clippings on your property.
- Mulch your leaves if you own a mulching lawnmower. The nutrients in the mulch will be used by your yard the next year.
- Compost leaves and other yard clippings to use as a fertilizer. Purchase a backyard compost bin from Edmund Landfill to do it at home, or take advantage of their on-site composting facility.
- Attend a Backyard Benefits Workshop to learn more about composting (check out some composting resources: [here!](#))
- Keep leaves off of driveways, sidewalks, or other impermeable surfaces.
- Clear storm drains that are clogged with leaves.



>>> Were you able to bust these stormwater myths?

FALSE 1. Stormwater is clean.

As it flows over the land, stormwater runoff collects and transports sediment, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, automobile fluids, deicing products, grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste, and other litter.

FALSE 2. Stormwater drains lead to treatment plants.

Storm drains and storm sewers directly convey runoff from your neighborhood into local waterways. Unlike wastewater, stormwater is not treated before it goes into our waterways.

FALSE 3. The pollutants in stormwater are not really harmful.

Little drops can add up to a big environmental problem. The volume of waste oil from one oil change is enough to form a film over a 4-acre surface water supply. Stormwater is one of the largest sources of water quality damage.

FALSE 4. Stormwater flows only to local streams.

Stormwater makes its way to all water bodies such as streams, rivers, lakes, bays, and even to the ocean.

FALSE 5. Stormwater is mainly an urban problem.

Stormwater runs off agricultural fields and pastures as well, carrying herbicides, fertilizers, nutrients, and sediment. Stormwater also runs off paved urban communities and even the backyards in our neighborhoods.

FALSE 6. Industries are the greatest source of water pollution.

Construction, urban, and agricultural stormwater runoff rivals discharges from factories and sewage treatment plants as a source of pollution throughout the United States.

FALSE 7. Roads are responsible for most of the state's stormwater runoff.

Roads typically make up about 3% of the total land use in urban areas and less than 1% of the whole state. Many pollutants can come from your own backyard.

FALSE 8. The state should take care of all stormwater pollution.

The state manages only a limited portion of the land. All of us—individuals, farmers, and industrial and commercial operations—must also do our part.

FALSE 9. Stormwater pollution will eventually go away.

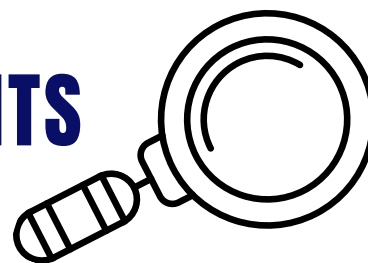
The problem will continue to grow, unless each one of us does our part. By practicing simple techniques, such as keeping your car tuned, recycling motor oil, checking for leaks, composting yard clippings, and cleaning up after pets, you can play a part in preventing pollution.

FALSE 10. No real solutions exist to solve our stormwater problem.

Because humans create urban stormwater pollution, humans can reduce or prevent it through responsible practices. SCDOT, SC Department of Environment Services, and SC municipalities like us are proactively developing programs to prevent and control stormwater pollution.

I SPY STORMWATER POLLUTANTS

>>> How many pollutants can you find?



UPCOMING EVENTS, INFO, & FYIS

BACKYARD BENEFITS WORKSHOP

>>> It's Raining, You're Saving—Build Your Own Rain Barrel!



4

Lexington County Presents

Putting the Fun in Functional Rain Gardens and Rain Chains A Backyard Benefits Workshop October 11, 2025

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Springdale Town Hall
2909 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia SC, 29170**

**Come learn about rain gardens and rain chains, composting in your own backyard,
and how to build your own rain barrel!**

**Course is \$40 and includes a rain barrel for you to take home and lots of
information about utilizing earth's resources in your backyard.**

**A “free to learn” option is also available for those who would like to learn
without purchasing their own rain barrel.**

Please note: Registration is limited, and required. Ages 16+ with adult supervision.



>>> FALL FIDO FEST

Join us at the annual Fall Fido Fest on **Sunday, October 12th** from **1-4PM** at **Melvin Park in Chapin!** Bring your furry friend and swing by our booth to learn about the importance about picking up after your pet and get some free doggie accessories! Check out their [website](#) to learn more.



>>> PAPER SHRED EVENT

Join Keep the Midlands Beautiful on **October 18th** for their Paper Shred Event! As a **Lexington County Resident**, take advantage of this safe and secure way to dispose of your personal documents. The event will take place at **Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church** from **9AM-12PM**.

>>> HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

For Lexington County Residents Only. Head on over to the Republic Services Collection Center (1741 Calks Ferry Road in Lexington) to responsibly dispose of your hazardous waste items! See the list of accepted materials below. The drop off dates are **Friday, October 24th 9AM-3PM** and **Saturday, October 25th 9AM-3PM**.



Accepted Materials Include:

- Acids
- Brake fluid
- Bug spray
- Car Wax
- Carburetor cleaner
- Degreasers
- E-Cigarettes
- Fertilizer w/ weed killer
- Fire extinguishers
- Furniture stripper
- Glue with solvents
- Insect killer
- Lighter fluid
- Lithium Ion Batteries
- Mercury including thermometers, thermostats and debris
- Mothballs
- Nail Polish Remover
- Paint, liquid (limit 8 gal)
- Paint related materials (ex. thinner)
- Perfume (Body Sprays)
- Pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides
- Polish with solvents
- Pool chemicals
- Roach and ant poison
- Rodent bait
- Spot remover
- Spray paint
- Stain, varnish and lacquer
- Turpentine
- Weed killer
- Wood preservatives



LET'S CONNECT

Learn more at lcswc.com

County of Lexington, SC



Lexington County

Land Development

212 S Lake Drive, Suite 401

Lexington, SC 29072

Phone: (803) 785-8121