

WHAT IS POLLUTED OR STORM WATER RUNOFF?

Have you ever been driving along with your parents, rolled down your car window, and thrown out a piece of trash? Every day people dump **pollutants** onto the land or into the water without thinking. Ninety-five percent of all the pollutants that end up on the ground are carried by water into water bodies such as streams, creeks, lakes, rivers, and eventually gulfs and oceans.

Water is the most powerful force for spreading pollution!



Polluted runoff or contaminated **storm water runoff** contains pollutants such as soil from **erosion**, **fertilizer**, **pesticides**, motor fluids, soap, food, beverages, glass, plastic, aluminum drink cans, toys, batteries, clothing, paper, gum, cigarette butts, and even dirty diapers. Water that drains into a storm drain or ditch flows to a nearby river and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. Rivers, lakes, and natural storage tanks underground called **aquifers** are all places where many of us receive our drinking water. These bodies of water may be directly impacted by the **polluted runoff**.

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