

PROTECTING KANSAS WATERWAYS

We all play a role

When it rains or snow melts, water that falls on our roadways runs off either into storm drains or the edge of the roadway. This is known as **stormwater runoff**. Stormwater runoff picks up anything on the road, including trash, motor oil, road salt and other pollutants. These pollutants are then carried into the nearest river, creek or stream, contributing to water quality issues. By keeping our roadways clean, drivers help protect Kansas waterways.

KDOT's highways are served by two types of stormwater systems: rural systems, made up of ditches and culverts, and urban systems, made up of storm drains and pipes. In rural systems, the vegetation in the ditch helps to naturally filter out pollutants before the stormwater reaches the nearest waterway. In urban systems, pipes take stormwater directly to the waterway, typically leaving no opportunity to filter out pollutants.

What is KDOT doing to reduce stormwater pollution?

KDOT works to help protect the environment and improve water quality by:

- Inspecting KDOT's stormwater systems on a regular basis for potential illicit discharges.
- Requiring extra protection of the stormwater system at construction sites to prevent dirt and other construction waste from running off the site.
- Building stormwater control measures in urban systems to provide treatment of stormwater runoff before it enters waterways.
- Implementing best practices to minimize potential pollutants from KDOT operations and maintenance, such as minimizing the amount of salt applied to the roadway in the winter months.

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

Put trash in a trashcan. In 2022, KDOT contractor IBS picked up over 100 tons of trash along highways in the Kansas City (KC) metro area. This is in addition to trash collected by KDOT employees and Adopt-A-Highway participants in KC and statewide. Also, maintain your vehicle to prevent any fluid leaks. Get involved!

How can I get involved?

- Participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Stipends of \$190 per highway section are available to groups each time their designated area is cleaned. More information is on KDOT's Adopt-A-Highway website.
- Report spills or illegal dumping. If you accidentally spill any substance or see someone else pouring any substance onto the roadway or down a storm drain, report it to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment spill hotline at 785-291-3333.

Storm Drain



What is illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is when automotive fluids, hazardous chemicals or trash are purposely poured or dumped into the environment.



For more information about KDOT's Stormwater Management Program, go to <https://www.ksdot.gov/bureaus/burMaint/StormWater/default.asp>

