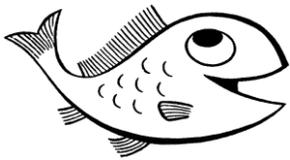


"FIN"AGIN'S STORM WATER WORLD

MEET "FIN"AGIN

"Fin"agin lives in the bay of Green Bay, and he likes to visit other fish that live in nearby creeks, streams and rivers. He can only live and swim if the water is clean. When the water is dirty, "Fin"agin and other fish can't breathe and bad things happen to them. The truth is, the waterways in the City of Green Bay are getting dirtier and dirtier. If this keeps up, pretty soon "Fin"agin won't have a place to live. But you can help "Fin"agin keep his home. Believe it or not there is a lot we do everyday that affects the quality of the water. If you learn the right way to do these things, you can keep the water from getting dirty. If you do things the wrong way, you make life harder for "Fin"agin. So go back into "Fin"agin's World and learn all about storm water and what you can do to keep it clean.



Yuck! Can you imagine swimming in all the gross stuff that's on our streets? Soaps, grass clipping, trash, pet waste, pesticides and fertilizers, dirt and oil are just some of the pollutants that make our water unhealthy for me, for people and for other animals.

Remember, after storm water and urban runoff flow into the storm drain, it gets sent to the nearest creek, stream, river and the bay so our streets don't flood. That means any pollutant on the street or in urban runoff gets carried to our waterways.

Can you think of all the pollutants that can float down a storm drain and contaminate our water?

Here are some pictures of some pollutants...

Leaves and Grass Clippings



Swimming pool chemicals



Hazardous chemicals



Soaps and detergents



Trash and Litter



Animal Waste



Dirt



Oil and other chemicals from cars



Air pollution from cars



Pesticides and Fertilizers



Chemicals like oil, chlorine (used for swimming pools), cleaners, pesticides and fertilizers can harm the animals, bugs and plants that live in the water, and can make people sick when it floats down to the ocean.



Too many leaves and grass clippings can take the oxygen out of water and suffocate the plants and animals who need oxygen to breathe, like "Fin"agin.

The waste from our pets is very harmful to our waterbodies. Our pets' waste has dangerous bacteria that can spread diseases to plants, animals and humans that swim in dirty water.



Soaps and detergents, like too many leaves and grass clippings, can take oxygen out of water and suffocate plants and animals. Also, soaps and detergents eat away at a fish's slimy mucus layer that protects fish, like "Fin"agin, from diseases and bacteria.

Did you ever think air pollution from cars could pollute our water? Yep.

Remember, anything that goes up, must come down. So all the gross-looking, bad-smelling, gray/black/brown/blue gases that come out of a cars' tailpipes floats up into the air and eventually lands on the ground or in a creek, stream, river, or the bay.



Listen up, litterbugs... the trash you throw in the street will eventually end up in our waterways! If you don't litter, hurray! You're helping our environment stay clean! Trash is not only ugly to look at, but it pollutes our waters and can make animals sick.

You're a water pollution genius if you can get this question... Why is dirt bad for creeks, streams and rivers? Well, a little bit of dirt is natural. But, too much from what's called "erosion" is harmful to waterbodies. "Erosion" is when dirt slides off hillsides and lands in a waterbody. Also, dirt can come from our streets and sidewalks, get carried into a storm drain and eventually end up in a waterbody. So, why is dirt bad? It makes water murky, so fish, like "Fin"agin, have a hard time breathing or finding places to lay their eggs. Dirt also clogs up creeks, streams and rivers making them disappear altogether.