

# TURN THE TIDE ON STORMWATER POLLUTION

**UNDERSTANDING STORMWATER AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR RIVERS, STREAMS, AND LAKES IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REDUCING POLLUTION. SMALL CHANGES IN EVERYDAY ACTIONS CAN HELP PROTECT LOCAL WATER QUALITY.**



## **PET WASTE POLLUTES OUR WATER. DO YOUR PART.**

PET WASTE IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF BACTERIA AND EXCESS NUTRIENTS IN LOCAL WATERS. WHEN WASHED INTO STREAMS, RIVERS, AND LAKES, IT RELEASES NUTRIENTS THAT REDUCE OXYGEN, HARM FISH, AND FUEL TOXIC ALGAE. PET WASTE CAN ALSO SPREAD DISEASE AND CONTAINS E. COLI, A LEADING CAUSE OF SUMMER BEACH CLOSURES. PICK UP PET WASTE AND USE A PET WASTE BAG TO KEEP WATERWAYS CLEAN AND SAFE.



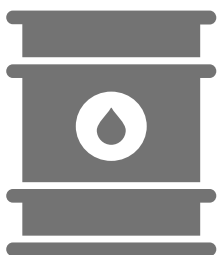
## **A LITTLE SALT GOES A LONG WAY. APPLY CAREFULLY.**

PREPARING FOR WINTER IN OHIO OFTEN INCLUDES TASKS LIKE INSTALLING SNOW TIRES, STACKING FIREWOOD, AND KEEPING DE-ICING SALT ON HAND FOR ICY WALKWAYS AND DRIVEWAYS. WHILE SALT CAN IMPROVE SAFETY, OVERUSE CAN HARM LOCAL STREAMS, RIVERS, AND LAKES AND DAMAGE NEARBY PLANTS. JUST ONE TEASPOON OF SALT CAN PERMANENTLY CONTAMINATE FIVE GALLONS OF WATER. THIS WINTER, HELP PROTECT OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT BY USING LESS SALT, APPLYING IT CAREFULLY, AND SWEEPING UP ANY EXCESS AFTER THE ICE MELTS.



## **SMART LAWN CARE KEEPS WATER CLEAN.**

WHEN FERTILIZER IS APPLIED IN EXCESS, RAIN AND STORMWATER CAN WASH IT INTO NEARBY STREAMS, LAKES, AND RIVERS, CONTRIBUTING TO WATER POLLUTION. FORTUNATELY, LAWNS CAN THRIVE WITHOUT CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS BY USING NATURAL CARE TECHNIQUES THAT PROTECT WATERWAYS FROM HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS THAT ENDANGER AQUATIC LIFE, PEOPLE, AND PETS. WITH PATIENCE AND CONSISTENT CARE, THESE PRACTICES CAN SUPPORT HEALTHY GRASS GROWTH, REDUCE WEEDS, AND HELP CREATE A CLEANER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT.



## **REDUCE RUNOFF. REUSE RAIN.**

REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF IS AN EASY AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROTECT LAKES AND RIVERS. COLLECTING RAINWATER IN MOSQUITO-PROOF RAIN BARRELS KEEPS RUNOFF OFF HARD SURFACES AND ALLOWS WATER TO SOAK NATURALLY INTO THE GROUND. THE STORED WATER CAN THEN BE REUSED FOR LAWNS AND GARDENS, HELPING SAFEGUARD DRINKING AND RECREATIONAL WATERS WHILE POTENTIALLY LOWERING WATER COSTS.

