

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**.