

FLOODING CAUSES MORE THAN PROPERTY DAMAGE



Floods can be exciting and awe inspiring events when viewed from a safe distance.

We only tend to think of

the expense to property damage when we think of flooding, but there is a much more expensive cost to us – the impacts on our water quality!

What floodwater carries with it can have lasting effects on a community or individual water supply and can even be dangerous to wade in.

Floodwater has the ability to engulf and overflow pollutant sources that cannot be accessed by normal rain events, such as the gas cans, lawn chemicals, antifreeze, and bags of fertilizer and salt that are sitting in your garage. It can immerse and wash clean things like acres of car engines, covered livestock facilities, and overflow the toxins in dumpsters, port-a-johns, sewers, and septic systems. Floodwater can transport and mix this toxic brew into our water and soil resources. These pollutants can come from anywhere – home or business – so keep it clean especially in the rainy season!



Objects within the floodwaters soak for hours or days and release fluids, metal shavings, or battery acids as they are washed clean in their unexpected bath. The unseen chemicals and materials in floodwaters can be very dangerous. Just being exposed to it can cause tetanus, skin rashes, illness, or infections to anyone who touches it with bare skin.

Pollutants such as bacteria, E. coli, and nitrates can quickly find their way into the drinking water supply. They can seep down into the groundwater by gravity and rain, potentially contaminating city and private sources. Floodwater can collect large quantities of pollutants from landfills, industrial facilities, streets, and numerous other places world wide! So, we need to work together to protect our drinking water by securing our potential pollutants before the floodwaters hit.

