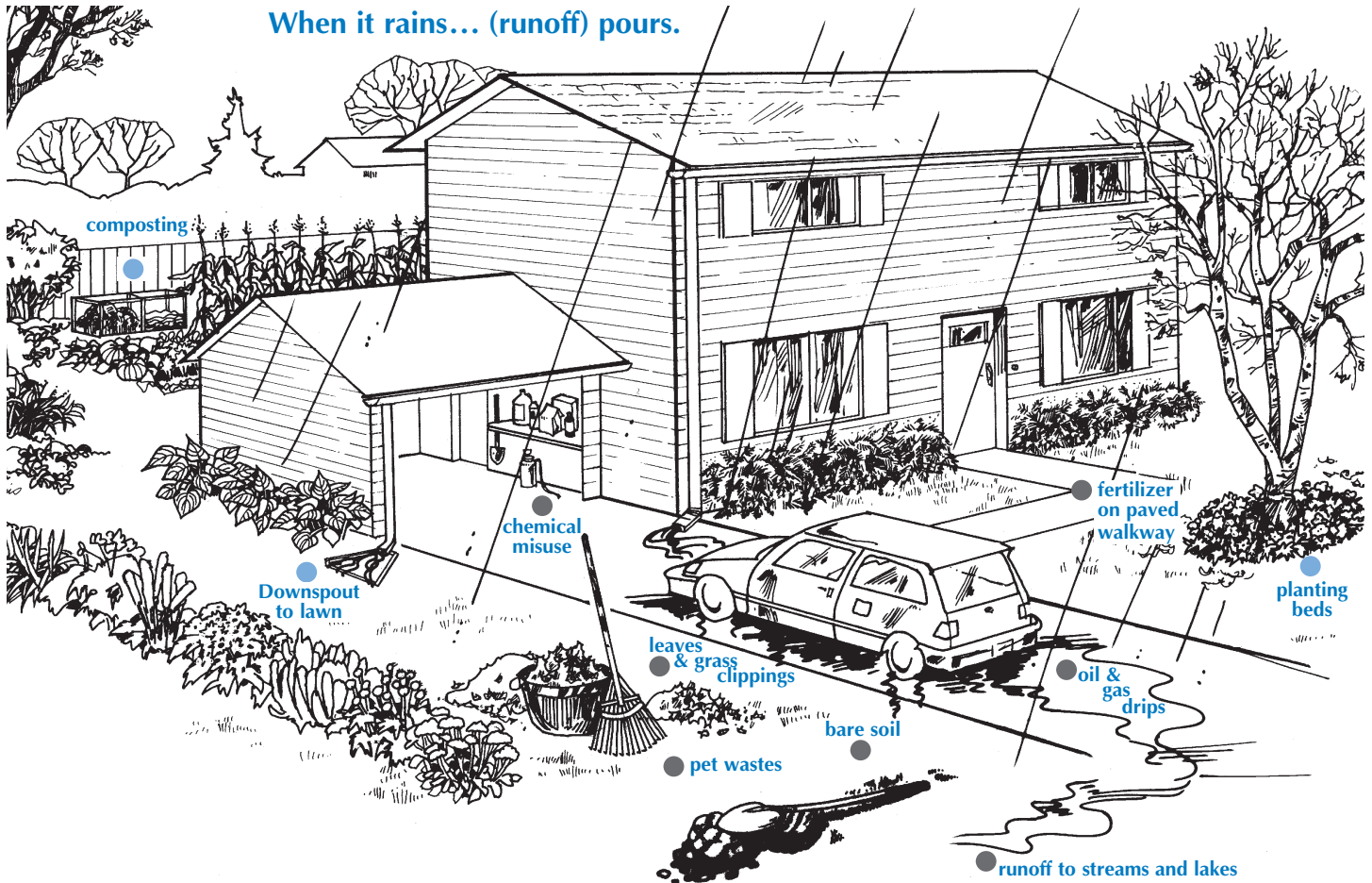


Home Hot Spots for Water Quality

Around every yard are spots where your activities affect water quality. The illustration below shows a few of them. Take a look around your own home and yard with an eye toward water quality.



HOT SPOTS KEY:

Are they Good • or Bad • for Water Quality?

Composting converts leaves and grass clippings into a nutrient-rich mulch for your planting beds and gardens.

Natural areas and planting beds lend variety to a residential lawn, attract wildlife and mean you have less lawn to mow and fertilize.

Directing downspouts to unpaved areas lets rain water soak into the ground which controls the flow of runoff into the lakes.

Safe chemical storage protects the lakes and your family. Make sure your lawn chemicals, car care products and household cleaners are properly sealed in their containers. Safely store these containers away from people, pets and runoff water.

Limit fertilizer and pesticide use, and sweep these off of paved areas to keep them out of storm sewers.

A small oil drip or gas leak may not seem like a big deal, but after a good rain these toxic chemicals become runoff that washes into the lakes. Keeping your car tuned will help prevent these problems.

Cover bare soil by planting the area with grass or some other vegetation, and then immediately covering with mulch or hay until vegetation takes root.