If you dump waste products in a street grate, it does not go to a water treatment plant to be cleaned. Instead, the untreated waste is discharged directly into the environment and our local streams from a storm sewer outfall.

Alexandria’s S.T.O.P Program

Improper disposal of many common-place products can pollute our environment. The City of Alexandria has developed the Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (S.T.O.P.) program to prevent illegal dumping. City residents can take waste products to a site in Alexandria for environmentally-safe disposal by a licensed hazardous waste disposal firm. The site is located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue and is open every Monday (except for holidays), from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Please bring products in the originally labeled containers only. Containers should be sealed and properly packaged for safe transportation. Proof of residency is required. Waste from Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators will be accepted by appointment only. For more information, call the Office of Recycling at (703) 751-5872.

http://ci.alexandria.va.us/tes/sw/stop_pgm.html

6 Things you can do to prevent water pollution

1. Never dump any liquid waste products into a storm drain or street grate.
2. Take waste products to an appropriate disposal facility.
3. Secure chemicals or cleaners during transport to avoid spillage.
4. Dispense chemicals or cleaners over a protective surface and away from storm drains or water bodies.
5. Use tarps to catch waste and residue when working outside on vehicles or painting.
6. If a spill does occur, contact The City of Alexandria’s Fire Department and notify them of the accident.

Dispose of construction waste and industrial chemicals properly
Illegal dumping onto any property, water, sanitary or storm sewer system is prohibited in the City of Alexandria (City Code Section 11-13-2). If you dump into a storm drain, gutter, or street grate, the waste product does not go to a water quality treatment plant to be cleaned. Instead, it is discharged into the City’s streams and rivers, which eventually drain into the Chesapeake Bay.

**Carpet Cleaner**

Carpets are cleaned in many homes and businesses to prolong the life of the carpet. Unfortunately, carpet cleaners can damage the environment if they are dumped into a stream. Most carpet cleaners contain detergents and other potentially harmful chemicals. They can be toxic to aquatic life or promote rapid growth of aquatic vegetation, which has a negative impact on the environment. Never dispose of carpet cleaners by dumping them down a storm drain. Always take carpet cleaner waste to the City’s waste disposal site at 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

**Construction Waste Products**

Construction waste can increase sedimentation in streams and reservoirs, making the water cloudy and filling in available drinking water capacity. Never dispose of excess concrete, cement, or mortar in a storm drain. Never wash cement troughs or truck tires directly into streams or storm sewer drains. Always follow proper Erosion and Sediment Control procedures.

**Automobile Waste**

Automobiles produce many different waste products, such as antifreeze, battery acid, gasoline, and used motor oil. These products can be harmful to the environment. Always take these waste products to an authorized automobile shop for disposal, or to the City’s waste disposal site at 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

The following items are accepted at 3600 Wheeler Avenue:

- Antifreeze
- Battery Acid
- Gasoline
- Motor Oil
- Auto Cleaning Products
- Car Batteries
- Oil-Based Paints
- Flammable Caulks & Adhesives
- Lacquers
- Spray Can Paint
- Varnishes
- Thinners
- Mineral Spirits
- Fire Extinguishers
- Household Cleaning Products
- Flammable Waxes & Abrasives
- Driveway Sealer
- Household Batteries
- Drain Cleaners

- Propane Tanks
- Pet Supplies
- Photographic Chemicals
- Developers
- Fixers
- Lawn Care Products
- Garden Products
- Herbicides
- Pesticides
- Ant Bait or Traps
- Rodent Control Products
- Insect Spray Cans
- Computers
- Televisions
- VCRs
- Printers
- Cellular phones
- Other type of electronics