

RC UTILITIES UPDATE

JULY 2011



Town of Rutherford College, PO Box 406, Rutherford College, NC 28671
www.rutherfordcollegenc.us 828-874-0333

Actions you can take to protect your drinking water source

Protect local waters, report water quality violations

To report a violation, call the DWQ Asheville Regional Office at (828)296-4500

Call if you see:

- Overflowing manholes
- Breaks in sewer lines
- Falling septic tanks
- Unusual coloration and/or odors in stream waters
- Dead or dying fish
- Soil erosion leaving constructions sites

Stormwater is NOT clean water!

Stormwater runoff harms streams and lakes.

- Transports sediment, nutrients, and chemicals to waterways
- Destroys habitat for fish and other aquatic life
- Damages stream banks and channels
- Raises water temperatures which can harm fish like trout.

Stormwater and Water Quality

STORMWATER IS NOT CLEAN WATER! As rain strikes the ground and travels over land, pollutants are captured in runoff. These pollutants include sediment, bacteria, nutrients and metals. Much of this runoff and contaminants ultimately enter a storm drain. All waters entering storm drains in the Morganton and Lenoir areas are directly piped into ditches and streams that lead to the Catawba River.

Most Burke and Caldwell County residents receive their drinking water from the Catawba River. Runoff that enters the Catawba represents a threat to the area's drinking water as well as other river uses including recreation and fish and wildlife habitat.

Sediment carried by the Catawba River must be removed at water treatment plants before processed water can be delivered to homes for use. Large amounts of nutrients in lakes cause algal blooms that can produce drinking water that tastes and smells unpleasant.

Follow these four simple steps to keep pollutants out of storm water and protect the Catawba River.

1. Protect stream banks and shoreline areas near lakes.
2. Prevent soil loss by establishing ground cover.
3. Follow label directions when using lawn care products.
4. Only rain allowed in storm drains.

FEMA Flood Insurance Plan

The Town of Rutherford College is now a member of the FEMA Flood Insurance Plan. Residents of Rutherford College are eligible to purchase Flood Insurance through their personal insurance company, if they desire to do so.