

## Minimizing the Effects of Development on Water Quality

Strategies such as the following can minimize the effects of development on water quality.

### 1. Minimize Impervious Areas

Impervious areas can be reduced by using “conservation design.” This includes:

- Reducing road width;
- Making driveways smaller;
- Reducing parking requirements; and
- Using permeable alternatives to pavement such as gravel or porous pavement.

### 2. Slow Stormwater from Impervious Areas

Avoiding direct connections from impervious areas to streams has an important effect on runoff. Examples include spreading rooftop runoff over pervious surfaces and routing road or parking lot runoff to grassy swales rather than to storm sewers. The most common way stormwater is slowed is by using stormwater basins, which are being required in more and more Indiana counties.



### 3. Reduce Pollution Sources

It is generally less expensive to prevent contaminants from entering stormwater than to treat contaminated water. Many contaminants can be prevented from getting into stormwater through good management practices.



### 4. Establish Protected Areas Such as Stream Buffers

Although all land uses affect water quality, areas along the edges of streams and waterways have a particularly important effect. Buffer zones or “green belts” along streams can improve water quality.

### 5. Plan Development on a Watershed Basis

A watershed approach requires an analysis of the watershed in which the proposed development is located and of how the proposed development fits into the cumulative impacts of all development planned in the watershed.

