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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Richmond Sanitary District
Contact: LuAnne Holeva, Conservation Education Coordinator
For use: Immediately through December 31, 2012

PSA: That is a pollutant? But it's "natural" isn't it?

Some of what we consider to be "natural" is actually harmful in large quantities in water bodies. Leaves, for example, will fall off the trees onto the ground. A few will end up in the stream or river when falling or carried by the wind. That is natural. When you rake your yard and rake leaves into the river, stream, or storm drain you are polluting the water. "Out of sight and out of mind" is harmful and deadly to aquatic life living in those water bodies. Not only may the leaves cause water back-ups and jams in the waterway or storm drains, it can lead to flooding. As the leaves decompose they absorb the oxygen in the water and deplete what is available for fish, amphibians, and macroinvertebrates that live there.

Decomposing leaves also add additional nutrients and may change the pH of the water, changing the chemical balance, and making life hard or impossible for aquatic life.

Remember: **ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN** – anything else is a pollutant.

Brought to you by the City of Richmond and the Richmond Sanitary District

richmondindiana.gov/stormwater

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