

# Runoff Vs. Recharge

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## What is runoff? What is recharge?

Sometimes, water soaks into the ground. This is called groundwater recharge. Other times, water will runoff the surface and travel to a stream, river, or lake.

**Key Topic:** Recharge, Runoff, Contamination/pollution prevention

**Grade Level:** This activity can be adapted for many age groups

**Duration:** 15 - 20 minutes

## Items Needed:

- Water
- Containers to hold water

## Objectives:

Learn how water movement can be influenced by different land surfaces. Experiment with different surfaces outside to see where water travels.

## Activity Steps:

1. Fill a container with water.
2. Find different surfaces outside (pavement, soil, grass, rocks, etc.)
3. Pour a bit of water on the surface.
4. Observe where the water travels. Does it recharge the groundwater? Or does it runoff?

## For More Fun:

Write down or illustrate your observations. Discuss where the runoff water winds up, many times it flows down storm drains. Discuss how pollutants can also wind up in storm drains.



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