

Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.



- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving

pet waste on the ground increase public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

Swimming Pool and Spas



- Whenever possible drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks or spills preferably in a cover area to avoid exposure to storm water.

Gutter Maintenance

Fallen leaves and grass clippings in gutters can plug storm drains, flooding our roads and harming our creeks. When grass clippings and too many decomposing leaves are put in our streams, unnaturally high levels of nutrients can harm aquatic wildlife.

- Yard waste such as grass clippings, tree trimmings, and leaves can be composted and used for fertilizer around the yard.

- Keep all fallen leaves and grass clipping, and trash from your property; off of the sidewalks and out of the gutter and streets.



- Set your lawn mower to mulch and mow high. Taller grass retains moisture and catches grass clippings

- If you see a storm drain that is clogged and can clear it without placing yourself in danger, please remove the leaves. Use a rake to help you reach the leaves without entering the street. Residents are not expected to work in the road to remove leaves.



Note: To report a clogged storm drain catch basin, call 530-633-2761 or after hours call -530-633-0926.

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STORMWATER POLLUTION

A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Storm Water Pollution



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What is Storm water Runoff?

Storm water runoff occurs when the precipitation from rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.



Why is storm water Runoff a Problem?

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into the storm drain system and go directly to lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters a storm drain system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming or fishing, etc.

The Effects of Pollution.

Polluted storm water runoff can have an adverse effect on plants, fish, animals, and people.



- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms.

When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- Debris-plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts-washed in water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

- Household hazardous waste like insecticides, pesticides, paints, solvents, use motor oil, anti-freeze and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shell fish or ingesting polluted water.



- Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can effect human health and increase drinking water treatment cost.

Practicing Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or unpaved surface to minimize the amount of soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually your local water body.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand and don't rinse the spill into a nearby storm drain. Remember to proper dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle old oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



Lawn & Garden

Use Pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary use the chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise chemicals will be washed into your local storm drain and eventually

- Select native plants and that are drought and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris \, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day and don't let water run off into storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local water bodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spilld immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water

A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.



Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.

Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.

- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.

- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.

- Recycle used motor oil.

- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.



Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.

- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.

- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.

- Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law. And remember to:

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.

- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.

- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.

- Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.



Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles.

- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.

- Participate in community cleanups.

Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.

- If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them.

- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.

- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.



Contact information

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org

Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
(609) 633-7021



www.cleanwaternj.org





STORMWATER POLLUTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- You may think littering is no big deal (it is).
- You may think that whatever runs into the storm drains gets treated before it reaches local rivers and streams (it isn't).
- You may think motor oil and other hazardous materials doesn't harm the water very much (it does).

Pollution seeps into the ground and is carried by stormwater (rain and snow) directly to our drinking water, streams, lakes and oceans. Contaminated stormwater is the #1 cause of water pollution in New Jersey. Simple things, like proper clean-up after oneself and careful use of chemicals in the home, office and yard, are helpful ways for businesses and residents to protect the water.

has ordinances aimed at reducing pollution from litter, fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, animal waste, grass clippings and other debris. For details, see

. Thank you for keeping them in mind and doing your share.



**Keep grass, leaves and trash
out of storm drains**



Don't feed wildlife



Clean up after your pet



**Limit use of fertilizers &
pesticides**



**Properly handle hazardous
products**



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www.nj.gov/dep/dwg

www.cleanwaternj.org