

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



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“Because it’s up to us to keep it clean”

Remember, storm water flows directly into our streams and creeks untreated. Everything that goes down the storm drain ends up in our water supply. Trash, leaves, grass clippings, fertilizers, motor oil, pet waste and other chemicals have detrimental effects on our water quality. By following these simple guidelines in this brochure you can greatly improve the quality of our water and waterways. Help us in our mission to **“Keep it Clean”**.



Borough of Glassboro
Stormwater Management

“Because it is up to us to Keep it Clean”



Things that **You** can do to help protect our water and waterways.

1. DO NOT LITTER. Litter is not pleasing to the eye and makes Glassboro look bad. Litter can cause clogs in storm drains, ditches, pipes, and streams. Always dispose of litter properly. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle whenever possible.



2. HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS. Paints, thinners, cleaners and other hazardous materials should be disposed of properly. Each year the GCI holds eight Hazardous Waste days. The County website is www.gcianj.com Look under the recycling tab. Please do not pour the hazardous chemicals down the storm drain. Just one gallon of liquid soap can pollute up to 200,000 gallons of water.

3. USE FERTILIZERS PROPERLY. Fertilizers contain nitrogen and phosphorous, two main catalysts in the creation of algae blooms in our waterways. Algae blooms deplete oxygen necessary for fish and other aquatic life to survive. Leave grass clippings on your lawn as this serves as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner. Do not fertilize your lawn before a rain event where the fertilizer just gets

washed down the street and into a storm drain.

4. WASHING YOUR VEHICLE.

Go to a commercial car wash where the water is recycled and treated on site. If you wash it yourself, try washing it on the lawn where the grass acts as a natural filter system for the soap and dirt.

5. MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLES.

Make sure that your vehicle is not leaking fluids on the driveway or street. When it rains, those fluids can be washed down the storm drain and into our streams and waterways. Used motor oil can be brought to the Highway Department for disposal. Many auto parts stores will also take your used motor oil and antifreeze. Do not dump oil or antifreeze down the storm drain. Just 1 quart of motor oil can pollute up to 250,000 gallons of water.

6. GRASS CLIPPINGS/ LEAVES

These can clog the storm water system causing property flooding. Excess yard waste in creeks and streams can cause algae blooms which deplete oxygen in the waterways and cause fish kills. These items should be placed into biodegradable paper bags or open 30 gallon containers for collection on your normal trash day. You can also mulch and compost yard waste and place

around shrubs or flowerbeds. PLEASE DO NOT dump yard waste down the storm drains.

7. PET WASTE. 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 Glassboro'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.

Remember, clean water begins with you! These 7 simple guidelines can greatly improve the quality of water we, and our neighbors, rely on.

"Because it's up to us to keep it clean"

For more information on Storm Water Pollution Prevention visit the State of NJ's website at www.cleanwaternj.org.

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