

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

- ④ Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- ④ Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- ④ Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- ④ 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.
- ④ 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

- ④ Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- ④ 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.

④ If you have hazardous **Clean up after** products in your home or **your pet**

workplace, make sure you store or dispose of

④ Many municipalities them properly. Read the and public agencies must label for guidance. enact and

enforce local ④ Use natural or less pet-waste rules.

toxic alternatives when ④ An example is

possible. requiring pet owners or

facilities. waterbodies.

your town's or agency's these areas: requirements and comply with them. It's the law.

④ Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

④ Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.

④ Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.

④ Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

drains

④ Do not feed wildlife, ④ Municipalities and such as ducks and geese, in many other public agencies public areas. are required to mark

④ Many municipalities and certain storm drain inlets other public agencies must

with messages reminding enact and enforce a rule that

people that storm drains prohibits wildlife feeding in



www.cleanwaternj.org



are connected to local

Keep pollution out of storm

④ Recycle used motor oil. their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of

④ Contact your pet waste dropped on municipality, county or public or other people's facility management office property. for the locations of

hazardous-waste disposal ④ Make sure you know

Don't feed wildlife

And remember to:



Dispose of yard waste properly

- ④ Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- ④ If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them.
- ④ Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- ④ Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

Don't litter

- ④ Place litter in trash receptacles.
- ④ Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- ④ Participate in community cleanups.



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