

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.

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



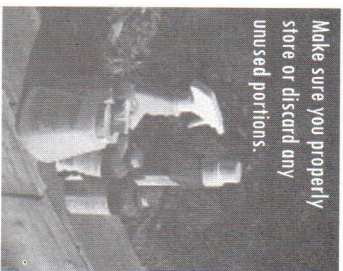
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Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every
Day To Protect Our Water

*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.*

Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.



Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

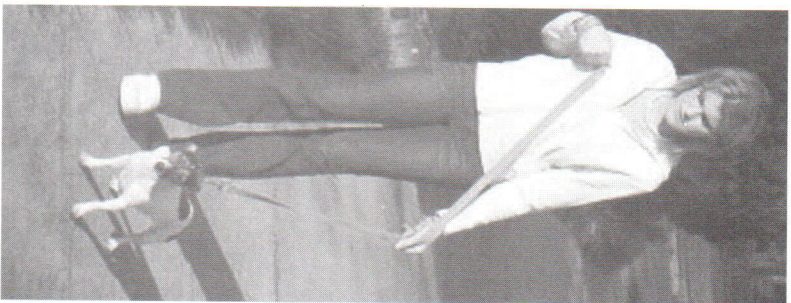
- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- 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.
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

Limit your use of fertilizers and 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.
- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.

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:
- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.
- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain
- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.

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.

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.



Don't litter

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

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.