

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our 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, and 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.

Easy Things You Can Do 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.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.
- 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 water bodies 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.

Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies enact and enforce local pet and livestock 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.
- 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 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 & ditches.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.