

SOLUTIONS TO STORM WATER POLLUTION

What You Can Do To Help 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 polluted.

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 AND PENALTIES

IMPORTANT TIPS TO PROTECT OUR WATER

Limit Your Use of Fertilizers and Pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Follow application instructions carefully when using fertilizers and pesticides.

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 storm drains; they are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.
- Read labels on all hazardous products in your home and workplace to ensure you store and/or dispose of them properly.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Find locations and schedules of hazardous waste disposal facilities in your area. Visit the Bergen County Utilities Authority website for household waste collection events at www.bcu.org

Dispose of Yard Waste Properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Follow yard waste collection rules.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

Don't Litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles; Recycle, Recycle, Recycle and participate in town-wide cleanup programs.



PET WASTE POLLUTES OUR WATERS

What You Can Do To Help Protect Our Water

Clean and plentiful water is important to our families, our environment, our economy and our quality of life.

Did you know that animal waste from pets can pollute our waters? When left on the ground, pet waste is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains that carry it to our rivers, lakes, the ocean and drinking water.

Animal waste contains a high concentration of nutrients as well as bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms that can cause problems.

What You Can Do

Pet owners or anyone who takes your pet for walks must properly dispose of the waste by picking it up, wrapping it and either placing it in the trash or flushing it unwrapped down the toilet.

Your municipality is required to adopt and enforce local pet-waste laws. At a minimum, your community must require that pet owners or their keepers immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any public or private property not owned or possessed by that person. People with assistance animals such as Seeing Eye Dogs are exempt.

Additional information is available on the Borough website: www.usrtoday.org

Quick Links – Borough Code Part II General Legislation – Chapter 48.8 (G)

Thank you for doing your part to keep New Jersey's waters clean.

For additional information, please contact the following:

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

Visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org

Additional information is also available at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency websites:

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

