



“Only rain in the drain”

Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly into 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 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 clean-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 owner, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to help protect our water.

Limit use of fertilizers & 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 they are usually connected to local bodies of water 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 in your area.

Keep pollution out of storm drains

- The Township is required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local bodies of water.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.
- Do not dispose of pet waste into storm drains.

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

Stormwater Mandate

The Stormwater Management Act is a government mandate to control the runoff of water from rain or snow. These mandates were initially enacted by Congress as part of the Clean Water Act and are in place nationally. Everyone relies on clean water for many of life’s needs.

Polluted runoff includes many things that get into our water supply. This stems from everyday activities such as fertilizing lawns, walking pets, changing motor oil, and littering. With each rain or snowfall, pollutants generated by these activities are washed from streets and lawns into stormwater drains that flow into our waterways and the ocean.

Wyckoff is required to distribute this state-mandated information annually.

Environmentally Sustainable Best Practices

Do not apply fertilizer if heavy rain is predicted, or within 10 feet of any watercourse, such as lakes, ponds, and streams. Chemical runoff pollutes our waterways and our drinking water supply