

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.

Make sure you know what your municipality requires – and follow it.

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

For more information, please contact the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
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 Web sites
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps



Jon S. Corzine, Governor
Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner



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

- 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 storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies 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.



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.

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:

- 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 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.

- 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.



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

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www.cleanwaternj.org



**IF YOU WASH
YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL WASH IT
IN THE LAKE.**



**Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which
flows directly into our streams, lakes,
rivers and the ocean.
So what can you do?**



www.cleanwaterNJ.org

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH WASHING YOUR CAR?

Washing your car on a paved surface can allow the soapy wash water and other pollutants, like oil and grease, to run off into a storm drain. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that, in large amounts can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. The soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains, which flows directly into lakes, rivers and the ocean. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow, which can be harmful to the water quality.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Take your car to a car washing facility, rather than washing it yourself. Commercial car washes treat and recycle the water.
- If you can't get to a car washing facility, wash your car on an unpaved surface and use biodegradable soap.
- Organize a Car Wash Fundraiser for a local organization. Visit www.cleanwaterNJ.org to learn how.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER?

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to New Jersey's clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots, and lawns into storm drains, then directly to our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Did you know more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste, and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater.



www.cleanwaterNJ.org



Thanks to the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

**IF YOU USE TOO MUCH
FERTILIZER ON YOUR LAWN,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL
FERTILIZE THE STREAM.**



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WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES?

Fertilizers help plants grow by adding nutrients to the soil. Pesticides (including herbicides) are any toxic substances used to kill insects, animals or plants. If fertilizers or pesticides are improperly applied, they can wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and directly to our lakes, rivers, and the ocean. These chemicals can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Too much fertilizer washing into a lake can cause algae to bloom in lakes, which will affect swimming, fishing and boating.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Test your soil at your County's Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office, or buy a self-test kit.
- Use natural, slow-release nitrogen, or low phosphorus fertilizers.
- Look into natural alternatives to fertilizers and pesticides, such as integrated pest management (IPM).
- If you need to use fertilizers or pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply.
- Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before it rains. This will not allow the fertilizers or pesticides to penetrate through the soil.
- Use drought-resistant native plants in gardens; they require less fertilizer and less water.
- Use a mulching mower instead of bagging grass clippings.

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LET IT LEAK IN THE OCEAN.**



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WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH MOTOR OIL?

Oil does not dissolve in water. When motor oil runs into storm drains either from changing your car's oil or from leaky cars, it goes directly to our lakes, rivers and the ocean. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic and can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Did you know that one pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field? Used motor oil is the largest single source of all oil pollution in lakes, streams and rivers. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into our waters.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Keep your car well maintained.
- Regularly check your car for leaks and schedule tune-ups. If you find leaks or drips, have your car repaired.
- Take your car to a service center to the change oil.
- If you do change your own oil, do it in a garage, never on the street. Use a self-contained oil pan and discard the oil at a local service center for recycling.
- NEVER discard oil, gas, or antifreeze into a storm drain.
- If you spill hazardous fluids, contain it immediately with rags and cat litter. Clean up the spill and properly dispose of the waste.

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**IF YOU DON'T
PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET,
IT MIGHT AS WELL
POOP IN THE RIVER.**



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WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PET WASTE?

Rain can wash pet waste that sits on a lawn or unpaved surface into storm drains, ultimately ending up in our lakes, rivers and the ocean. Pet waste contains coliform bacteria and other pollutants that can make people sick, and often cause beach closures on lakes or the ocean. Coliform bacteria can contaminate shellfish, which causes people to get very sick when they are eaten. Bacteria from pet waste can also pollute your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Pet waste is not only a health hazard but also a nuisance in our neighborhoods.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Use newspaper, plastic bags, or a pooper-scooper to pick up the waste when you walk your pet.
- Properly dispose of pet waste into the trash or toilet. (Do NOT dispose of newspaper or plastic bags in the toilet.)
- Do not dispose of pet waste in storm drains.

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