Stormwater Pollution Prevention Guide
FOR HOMEOWNERS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that contaminants in stormwater runoff cause over half of the pollution in our nation's waterways.

Stormwater pollution begins when rain or snowmelt washes over pavement and other impervious surfaces, picks up contaminants, and flows down stormdrains to the waterways we rely on for drinking and recreation.

Common pollutants include antifreeze, detergents, fertilizers, gasoline, household chemicals, motor oil, paints, pesticides, pet waste, road salt, solvents, and yard waste

HELP KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN!

Please check the back of this page for tips on preventing stormwater pollution.
It's easier than you think!

***Stormwater pollution** is the toxic mix of bacteria, chemicals, metals, nutrients and other contaminants that washes over pavement and other impervious surfaces and flows down stormdrains to the waterways we rely on for drinking and recreation.*

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Let's work together to keep our waterways clean.

Learn more at **www.neponsetstormwater.org**

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PICK-UP AFTER YOUR DOG

*Dog waste carries high levels of harmful **E. coli bacteria** and other pathogens, and is a major contributor to local water pollution.*

- Pick up the poop! Always carry a **plastic bag** when you walk your dog, and dispose of pet waste in a **trash can.**

LAWN & GARDEN

- Choose **organic lawn chemicals** whenever possible.

  Use lawn chemicals sparingly and never use more than the directions call for.

- Sweep up **dry chemical spills** and dispose in trash.
- Don't pile **yard waste** near streams, wetlands, or stormdrains.
- Start a **compost pile.**
- Don't allow irrigation to **spray onto pavement.** Water that ends up on the pavement contributes to polluted runoff, and is wasted.
- Make sure that your **landscaper / irrigation contractor** follows rules for preventing stormwater runoff.
- Redirect **downspouts** toward grassy areas, trees and shrubs, so that runoff from your roof can soak into the ground.
- Use **pervious materials** in landscape designs. Bricks, pavers and stones allow water to slowly filter into the ground.
- Set a **rain barrel** under your downspout to capture water for another use.
- Plant **rain gardens** to help filter and soak up water before it runs onto the street.

HOMES / BUSINESSES

- Use the **least toxic** products available for cleaning, etc.
- Avoid **liquid chemical spills** such as oil, gasoline, antifreeze, paint, etc. on paved areas.

  *If a liquid chemical spill occurs, clean with rags or absorbent material such as **sand or kitty litter.** Sweep up absorbents and dispose of in the trash.*

- Never use a **hose** to wash down the driveway or sidewalk. This washes pollutants into storm drains, and is a waste of water.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste through your local **DPW / Household Hazardous Waste Program.**
- Never pour **washwater or chemicals** down stormdrains.
- Store chemicals in **leak proof containers** inside a building or shed, or under cover, away from rainwater.
- **Avoid oversalting** walkways and driveways in the winter, and use non-toxic products whenever possible.
- Sweep up all **construction areas** on a regular basis and dispose of debris in the trash.

WASHING CARS AND BOATS

- Park your vehicle in a spot where the soap will run off onto **grass,** rather than into the street and down the stormdrain. If practical, park your vehicle on your lawn when washing it.
- Use **organic or mild soaps** and detergents.
- Never clean or pressure wash the **undercarriage of a car** at home. The oil, grease and other pollutants from this activity can contaminate shallow groundwater.
- Always use a **hose nozzle with a trigger,** and shut it off when you're not using it to conserve water
- Skip the home treatment and **wash your car professionally,** but use a car wash that recycles its water!

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

- Store automotive parts, such as batteries, engines, transmissions, and parts that may have oily or greasy residue on them, under cover and off the ground, to **minimize rainwater contact.** Rainwater can wash pollutants off these parts and into stormdrains.
- Collect all used oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids in contain ers with tight fitting lids and **recycle at a local service station.**

SWIMMING POOLS AND HOT TUBS

- Never **discharge pool water** directly into a storm drain.
- Dechlorinate pool, hot tub or spa water with **neutralizing chemicals,** if water is to be discharged into the ground. If water cannot be dechlorinated, it must be collected by a pool maintenance company.

For more information on hazardous waste disposal, call your local Department of Public Works.

*For more information on reducing stormwater pollution, visit **www.neponsetstormwater.org***

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