



What is STORMWATER RUNOFF?


Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melted snow that cannot be absorbed by the soil. As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a stormwater system or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland or costal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.







By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants, like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automobile fluids off the ground and out of stormwater.

Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and costal waters.




-  Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on the lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain;
-  Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with absorbent material and dispose of it properly. Do not throw it down the storm drain;

-  Recycle use oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations;



-  Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and only in recommended amounts. Avoid applications if the forecast calls for rain;
-  Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides;
-  Sweep up yard waste rather than hosing down areas. Compost and recycle yard waste when possible;
-  Don't over water your lawn and water during the cool times of the day;



-  Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drain and protect it from debris and other materials;
-  Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris;
-  Use hazardous materials such as paint and solvents in the smallest amounts possible. Clean up spills immediately and dispose of waste properly;

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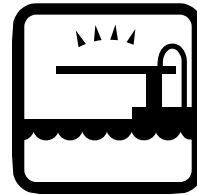
- ✚ Purchase nontoxic, biodegradable and recycled materials whenever possible;
- ✚ Clean paint brushes in the sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil based paints. Properly dispose of hazardous materials at a County sponsored Household Chemical Cleanup Day;
- ✚ Reduce the amount of paved surfaces and increase the amount of vegetative area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider redirecting down spouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff;



- ✚ When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases the risk to the health of the public;



- ✚ Drain your pool only when a test kits does not detect chlorine levels;
- ✚ Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system;
- ✚ Properly store pool and spa chemicals properly to prevent spills and leaks;



- ✚ Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every three (3) years and have septic system pumped when necessary (every 3 to 5 years);
- ✚ Care for the septic system drain field by not parking or driving vehicles over it. Plant only grass over the drain field to prevent damage from roots;
- ✚ Flush responsibly;



Town/Village of Harrison
Engineering Department
1 Heineman Place
Harrison, New York 10528

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