

Residents Can Help Their Towns Protect Their Water

For Car Care

- Don't dump anything into a storm drain, it's only for stormwater
- Check your driveway or garage for leaks from your car.
- Wash your car at a car wash, not on the driveway.
- Fix car or truck leaks.
- If you change your car's oil, take the used oil to you service station to recycle it.
- Use lawn fertilizer sparingly.

For Yard Care

- Leave grass clippings after mowing
- Plant trees and protect mature trees.
- Use a pooper scooper if you have a pet.
- Direct gutter downspouts away from pavement or to a rain barrel.
- Sweep, don't hose, your sidewalk.
- Water yard only when necessary.
- Do not litter.

Friends of the Estuary

Friends of the Estuary (FOTE) is a regional partnership seeking the protection of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary through storm-water pollution prevention. We are pioneering programs to help both businesses and residents become stewards of our local waterways. The Friends of the Estuary program will assist local businesses by providing materials, guidelines, and trainings on how to reduce impacts on the estuary.

NY/NJ Estuary



Participating Organizations

Association of New Jersey Environmental
Commissions (ANJEC) 973-549-7547

New York Academy of Sciences,
Harbor Project

Future City Inc. & the Elizabeth River/Arthur
Kill Watershed Association

Council on the Environment of New York City
New York City Soil and Water
Conservation District

Keeping Our Waters Clean and Healthy

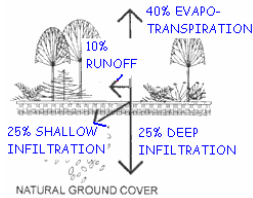


The Solution Is All of Us

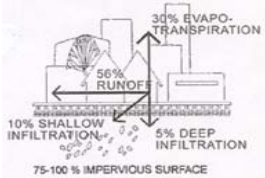
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Stormwater from rain and snow is the source of fresh water that feeds our streams, rivers, lakes and underground aquifers. Keeping stormwater clean and in good supply will protect our drinking water and preserve streams and oceans for recreation and wildlife habitat.

How we use land directly affects the way stormwater flows. When land is undisturbed, over half of precipitation infiltrates the soil and only about 10 percent runs off the surface.



Roads, pavement and buildings (impervious surfaces) reduce the area where stormwater can soak into the soils to replenish water supplies. This means less water recharges underground aquifers, making them unable to keep up with the amount wells pump out.

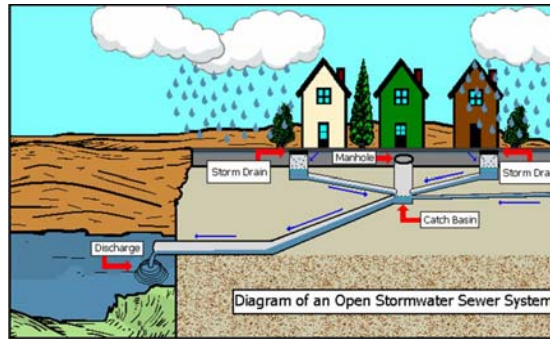


The impervious surfaces also cause problems with our lakes, rivers and oceans. Much more water flows quickly over the land, resulting in greater and more frequent flooding. It causes erosion, eating away the banks of rivers and streams. Roadways and storm sewers act like superhighways for stormwater, speeding its flow.

As storm water flows across land, it picks up all sorts of contaminants - litter, pesticides, fertilizer, pet wastes, petroleum products, and road salts. The increased volume and speed of stormwater runoff from paved surfaces wash more of these pollutants into water bodies. This can cause fish kills, and cause force beach closings.



CLEAN WATER LAWS REQUIRE YOUR TOWN TO MANAGE STORMWATER



Towns must make sure that the storm systems are maintained and that no one uses the system's drains and pipes to get rid of pollutants.

Public Works Departments have to practice good "house" keeping by sweeping the streets, keeping road salt under cover, cleaning the storm drains and checking the discharge from the pipes to make sure no one is dumping.



Towns have to pass local laws:

- Pooper scooper laws
- Anti-littering laws
- Leaf and yard waste laws

Used Motor Oil Needs Careful Disposal

Improper disposal of used motor oil can lead to water pollution. Rain water will carry oil that is dumped on the ground or down storm drains to nearby waterways including local streams, rivers, and harbors harming the ecosystem and wildlife. Unlike sewage, stormwater (and all that it contains) is not treated before it goes into waterways.

As it is used, motor oil becomes contaminated with toxic chemicals and metals. Oil spilled into surface water hurts fish by reducing oxygen the fish need to survive.

People who change their own motor oil—called "do-it-your-selves"—each year dump nearly 120 million gallons of recyclable motor oil on the ground, pour it down storm drains, or put it in trash cans.

Used motor oil from cars, motorcycles, boats, lawnmowers, and farm equipment can be recycled and re-refined.

