

Landscaping & Gardening

- ☑ Minimize the need for pesticides by choosing plant species that are resistant to insects and disease. Landscaping with native plant species works best. Provide habitats for birds, bats, toads, etc. that prey on insect pests. Introduce praying mantises, lacewings, ladybugs and other pest-eaters to your garden.
- ☑ Do not over apply pesticides and fertilizers. Follow directions and use judiciously. Pull weeds by hand when possible.
- ☑ Install a Rain garden. A rain garden is a depressed area in the landscape that collect rain water from a roof, driveway or street and allows it to soak into the ground. Plan with grasses and flowering perennials. Rain gardens are a cost effective and beautiful way to reduce runoff from your property. <https://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/>
- ☑ Do not over water the lawn or garden. Over watering may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground and surface water.
- ☑ When your lawn or garden needs watering, use slow-watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses. Such devices reduce runoff and are more effective than sprinklers.
- ☑ When you mow, set the blades to cut the grass two or three inches high. Most grasses are healthiest at this height, and this also helps control weeds. Mow often and leave the clippings on the ground. They will help keep moisture in and provide nutrients to the soil as they decompose.
- ☑ Compost your leaves, grass clippings and garden waste. Composting is easy and can be very inexpensive - no sophisticated equipment is needed.
- ☑ Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

Painting

- ☑ Do not allow liquid paint products and wastes to drain into the gutter, street, or storm drains.
- ☑ Choose water-based paints (such as latex) instead of oil-based.
- ☑ Save unused paint materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event or reuse leftover paints when possible. Also, many local theater/performance groups and school art departments will take unused and leftover paint.

For More Information:

UConn NEMO Program <https://nemo.uconn.edu/>
Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Management
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/NPS/Nonpoint-Source-Management>

General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Municipal-Stormwater>

CT DEEP is the regulatory agency for Water Usage and Water Discharges <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Regulating-Water-Usage-and-Water-Discharges>

US EPA NPDES Stormwater program
<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>



STORMWATER RUN-OFF

PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN PONDS, STREAMS & RIVERS IN ESSEX



TOWN OF ESSEX STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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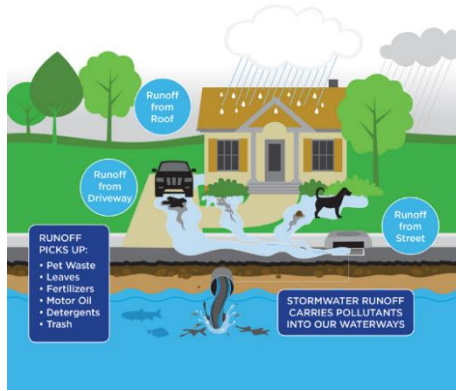
ESSEX DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Essex Stormwater Management Program is a requirement of the CT DEEP *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems* (MS4)

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rain and snowmelt that flows over the ground. In open fields, forests and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called stormwater or stormwater runoff) picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flows into drainage swales or catch basins which are part of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, (MS4). Stormwater runoff is discharged untreated directly into wetlands, watercourses and coastal waters.



Effects of Pollution.

Stormwater pollution comes from many different sources. Stormwater runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products which cause pollution. Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil are all pollutants. Many types of litter can create storm water pollution as well.

Water that we use for swimming, fishing, recreation or for drinking can become impaired by polluted stormwater runoff. High bacteria and algae levels in lakes result in swimming and recreational areas being closed. Hazardous wastes in lakes and streams poison fish, wildlife, aquatic habitats and humans. Trash washed into these lakes and streams can choke birds and small animals.

Stormwater pollution lessens the aesthetic value and well-being of our community.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips What Can You Do?

- ✓ Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains. These drains may go directly to wetlands, streams, or rivers.



- ✓ If you must buy an item that is potentially hazardous, be sure to buy only as much as you need and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage and disposal. Save unused materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event. For more information on Household Hazardous Waste Collection go to www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste



- ✓ Use a garbage can for trash and recycle reusable materials. Improperly discarded trash may be carried by runoff into the storm sewer.
- ✓ Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. Allow drainage from the roof to flow over your lawn instead.
- ✓ Pick up after your pet.



Auto Maintenance

- ✓ Automobile fluids from leaks or maintenance changes are another source of water pollution. Each year Americans dump enough used oil in landfills to equal approximately 13 spills the size of the Exxon Valdez spill! Even more oil is disposed of illegally. Much of this oil eventually finds its way into our water. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water!
- ✓ Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze with kitty litter or other absorbent material. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.
- ✓ If you change your own oil or antifreeze, be sure to carefully collect all the used oil or antifreeze in a proper container with a tight-fitting cap and deliver it to a service or recycling center or the Essex Transfer Station with the oil filter.
- ✓ Wash your car only when necessary; use a bucket to save water. Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can absorb the water or go to a commercial car wash that uses water efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.

This is Pollution!!

