



In Summary

Stormwater runoff can contain bacteria, litter, oils, pesticides, fertilizers, and chemicals. When left on the ground, rain or melting snow can wash these pollutants into a storm drain. These materials can degrade local waters when allowed to flow into our storm drain system. Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant. This water ultimately flows into our creeks and tributaries.

In addition, if you are caught allowing anything but rain into the storm drain, you could be subject to severe penalties and/or fines, plus the cost of cleanup.

We need to stop stormwater pollution at the source.



Remember:

Only Rain In the Storm Drain

Contact Information

To report a spill during regular business hours call the City of Newark's Emergency Management Coordinator at 302-366-7075

After hours contact the DNREC Emergency Response Hotline at 1-800-662-8802

For waste disposal and recycling questions call the Delaware Solid Waste Authority Citizens Response Line at 1-800-404-7080

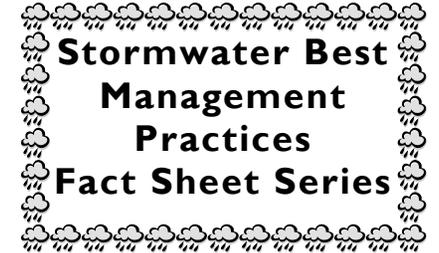
For general stormwater program information contact the Stormwater Program Coordinator at 302-366-7040 or visit our website at:

http://newark.de.us/docs/departments/stormwater_program.html

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City of Newark Public Works



Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet Series

Stormwater Quality



This brochure has been prepared to educate the general public about ways to improve the quality of stormwater runoff in order to protect water quality in storm drains, and ultimately, the creeks and tributaries in Newark.

Why should I care about Stormwater?

This brochure is intended to educate the general public about ways to improve the quality of stormwater runoff, which minimizes the potential for water quality degradation.

Water that flows into the storm sewer system does not get treated at the waste water treatment plant. It flows through a series of pipes and discharges either directly or indirectly into our creeks and tributaries. To minimize the potential for water quality problems, we need to work together to clean up our stormwater at the source.



Before you allow anything to flow into a storm drain, stop and think about how the water ultimately flows untreated into the creeks and tributaries in Newark.

Ways you can help

-  *Pick up pet wastes and dispose of them in the toilet, trash, or bury them. When allowed to reach water bodies, pet wastes decompose and use up much of the oxygen needed for animals and plants to survive.*
-  *Allow pool or backwash water to sit so chlorine levels can drop to acceptable levels. Test the discharge water to ensure the pH is between 6.5-8.5. Allow water to slowly drain across a vegetated area making sure it doesn't impact neighbors, creeks or flow into the street.*
-  *Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly. Consider using alternatives to pesticides such as baits, traps, predatory insects, or plants that act as natural repellants. Consider using non-toxic or organic fertilizer. Do not apply products in the wind or when rain is predicted. Turn spreader off while crossing sidewalks or drives so the product doesn't wash into the storm drain in the next rain.*
-  *Perform regular vehicle maintenance to minimize leaks. If you change your own oil, recycle the used oil and filter at the nearest Recycle Delaware location. For locations contact the Delaware Solid Waste Authority at 1-800-404-7080.*

Ways you can help

-  *Wash your car in a grassy area to allow the water to infiltrate through the soil. The top layer in the soil traps pollutants, preventing them from migrating to the storm drain.*
-  *Direct roof runoff into a barrel for reuse later. Another alternative is to divert downspouts away from paved areas and onto grassy, vegetated areas to reduce water runoff and speed.*
-  *Sweep sidewalks, patios and drives when cleaning up, rather than hosing them down with water. Use rags and dry absorbents to clean up spills, then dispose of according to package directions.*
-  *Some household products, such as cleaners, can cause water quality problems if allowed to get into the storm drain. Buy products labeled "non-toxic" when possible. Contact the Delaware Solid Waste Authority at 1-800-404-7080 for their Household Hazardous Waste Collection schedule.*
- If you live near a creek or tributary, allow a vegetated buffer to grow along the stream bank. Don't mow to the edge, so the buffer can act to filter out pollutants and also help prevent stream bank erosion.*