

Summary: Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff contains many pollutants including bacteria, oils, pesticides, detergents, fertilizers, chemicals, and car maintenance products.

Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant. Water entering storm drains flows directly into our creeks and tributaries. Polluted stormwater harms waterways, degrades aquatic life and affects public health.

To protect our streams and tributaries, pollution must be stopped at the source and each individual can help do their part. By following the basic recommendations outlined in this brochure, we can work together to reduce the amount of pollutants flowing into the storm drains and our waterways.

Keeping our waterways protected and clean is also required by law in order to stop pollution at the source. Community members discharging pollutants into a storm drain may be subject to severe penalties and/or fines.

Contact Information

This brochure is a collaborative endeavor between the University of Delaware and the City of Newark in an effort to reduce the quantity and increase the quality of stormwater runoff within the City of Newark.

Contact Us

University of Delaware

Department of Environmental Health and Safety (302-831-8475).

City of Newark

Department of Public Works (302-366-7000).

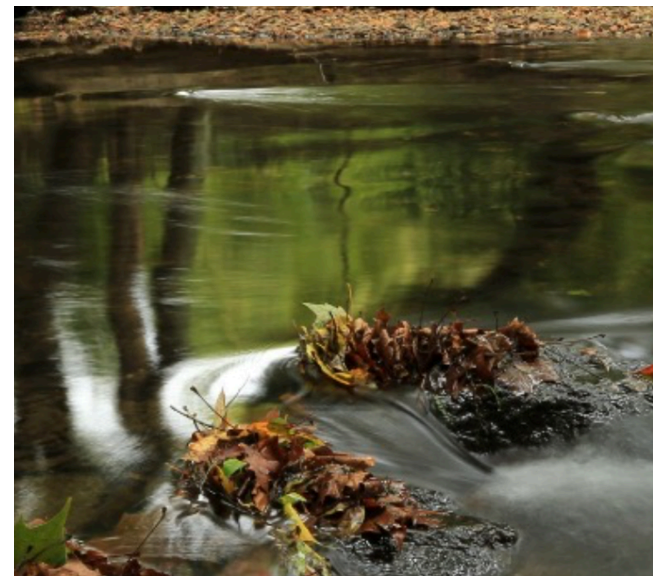
University of Delaware Environmental Health and Safety Stormwater Management

<https://www1.udel.edu/ehs/environmental/stormwater-management.html>

The City of Newark Public Works and Water Resources Department

220 South Main Street
Newark, DE 19711

www.cityofnewarkde.us/NPDESstormwaterprogram



You Can Be Part of the Stormwater Pollution Solution

Simple Steps You Can Take to
Protect Our Storm Drains,
Streams, and Environment



How Does Stormwater Runoff Generate Pollution

Rain or snowmelt carries ground surface pollutants into the storm drain system, which flows directly to our creeks and tributaries. Anything entering the storm drain is discharged untreated into the local waters. It is important that we stop pollution at the source to successfully clean up our local waterways.

Continued growth and development increases the amount of pavement, sidewalks and roofs and decreases the amount of rainwater runoff absorbed into the ground. This causes local flooding and a poor water quality.

For more information, visit these stormwater websites:

USEPA: www.epa.gov/polluted-runoff-nonpointsource-pollution

Partnership for Delaware Estuary:
www.delawareestuary.org/

DNREC: www.dnrec.delaware.gov



Washing a car on a driveway or street sends detergents and other pollutants into local waterways. **Use a commercial car wash that recycles water or wash your car on the lawn.**



Pet waste left on lawns introduces bacteria into the waterways. **Pick up and properly dispose of all pet waste.**



Improper pesticide use causes excess chemical contamination in waterways, harming aquatic life. **Use pesticides sparingly or explore alternative methods such as native plantings or predatory insects.**



Household cleaners, oils and paints that flow into the storm drains cause stream degradation. **Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. Contact Delaware Solid Waste Authority at 1-800-404-7080.**



Mowing to the edge of a creek eliminates the natural vegetation needed to trap pollutants and secure the stream bank, risking contamination and stream bank erosion. **Allow a vegetated buffer to grow 50 feet from the stream bank. The buffer filters pollutants, slows the water flow and secures the stream bank.**



Improper fertilizer application contributes to excess nutrients in streams, lakes and bays which contributes to algae blooms and other ecological damage. **If you choose to apply fertilizer, contact your local Cooperative Extension to test the soil and recommend the correct application. Use fertilizers sparingly and do not apply before a rain or over paved surfaces.**



Pool water contains chlorine, pool cleaning products and solids that harm aquatic life if discharged into the storm drain system. **Discharge pool water slowly over vegetated areas and use caution not to impact your neighbors. Do not discharge pool water to the sanitary sewer or storm drain.**