



STORMWATER SENSE

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

THE FLOW OF STORMWATER

What is Stormwater Pollution?

During rain events, stormwater runs off various surfaces such as roofs, lawns, driveways, sidewalks and streets. The flowing water picks up pet waste, fertilizer, pesticides, oil, and automotive fluids, thus generating polluted stormwater runoff.

Where Does Stormwater Go?

Unlike sanitary waste which is carried to Waste Water Treatment Plants for cleaning, polluted stormwater is directed to catch basins. Runoff then flows from the catch basins to streams, rivers, and estuaries such as Long Island Sound. Any pollution carried by the stormwater is released directly to these waterbodies.

Why Should You Care?

Waterbodies which receive polluted runoff are often used for activities such as swimming, fishing, and boating. In some cases, drinking water is affected. In order to ensure the health of town waterways, and to protect the flora and fauna calling these waters "home," it is important to reduce pollution of stormwater.

How Can You Help Reduce Pollution of Stormwater?

- Always throw trash in a waste receptacle
- Never dump waste in a catch basin
- Reduce/eliminate use of fertilizers
- Plant trees to absorb runoff
- Properly dispose of oil & hazardous waste
- Pick up after pets
- Reduce/eliminate use of pesticides
- Install rain gardens to slow & filter runoff

