



HOW TO MAKE EVERYDAY DECISIONS THAT
WILL PROTECT OUR STREAMS, RIVERS, LAKES,
AND DRINKING WATER...

IT'S UP TO YOU!

This brochure is a service provided by the
Morris Township Environmental Commission.

For more information visit

www.morristwp.com

WHAT IS STORM WATER POLLUTION?

Storm water pollution is a form of nonpoint source pollution or pollution which comes from everyday activities such as littering, wrongful disposal of household hazardous products, changing motor oil, over fertilizing lawns and improperly managed farmland, washing cars, overuse of pesticides, and de-icing.

Every day we make decisions that can result either in water protection or pollution.

Daily actions ranging from changing the oil in the family car to using a household cleaner to treating our lawns can all have an effect on the quality of water that flows from our yards, driveways, and roads into storm drains and ultimately our streams, rivers, lakes, and surface drinking water.



EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN...



1. KNOW YOUR STORM DRAIN

Know where your storm drains are located. Please assist us by keeping the tops clean.

2. MANAGE YOUR YARD FOR CLEAN WATER

Do not place piles of leaves, grass, or yard waste less than 10 feet from your storm drain. Grass and leaves that are washed down gutters and streets into storm drains make their way straight to area waterways. Yard debris adds unwanted and damaging nutrients to our streams, rivers, and lakes, in addition to clogging storm drains and accelerating flooding. Keep your storm drains clear and clean of yard debris and litter.



Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides. Test your soils to see if you need a fertilizer (contact Rutgers Extension & Research), and don't apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted. When using fertilizers, follow the directions and use slow-release fertilizers to prevent loss of nitrogen. For pesticide information, contact the office of New Jersey Pesticide Control.



Reduce your lawn. Use native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers which require less water and fertilizers. Use native ground cover on slopes and stream banks to reduce run-off of water and erosion. Contact Morris County Park Commission's Horticulture Department for more information.

3. NO HAZARDOUS WASTE!



Hazardous products include many household and commercial cleaning products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints in addition to fertilizers and pesticides. Do not dispose of them in storm drains or let materials run into storm drains from your yard or driveway. Consider using alternatives whenever possible. Use and Dispose of hazardous waste appropriately: Read the product label, recycle used motor oil, keep your car in good repair to eliminate leaking oil and antifreeze.

4. CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET



Yes, that's right! You are required to clean up your pet's waste in your yard as well as on the street, along trails, and in our parks. Use newspaper, bags, or pooper-scoopers to pick up pet waste. Dispose of it in a sealed bag for garbage pick-up, in specially marked receptacles in our parks, or flush it down the toilet into our municipal sewage treatment system. Remember, it's still sewage and we don't want it in our streams, rivers, lakes, and drinking water!



We ask all Morris Township Residents that you do whatever you can, both at home and at work to prevent pollutants from entering our rivers, streams, lakes, and drinking water. We hope that you find this brochure a useful tool that makes it easier for you to learn and access information about our municipal storm water management program.

By following the easy things you can do to keep our water clean, you will help reduce or eliminate pollutants from entering the drinking supply for your community, county, and neighbors in New Jersey.

Don't forget to visit [Clean Water NJ!](http://CleanWaterNJ.com)

Thank you.