

What Can a Homeowner Do?



✓ Remove debris such as trash, leaves and grass clipping away from catch basins, drainage ditches and waterways.

✓ Whenever possible use environmentally friendly, biodegradable products when cleaning outside.

✓ Do not dump household waste such as paint, cleaning products, motor oils, antifreeze, pet excrement, yard waste or any other hazardous material into catch basins, drainage ditches and waterways.

✓ Dispose of hazardous waste properly with the town's Household Hazardous Materials Collection Program.

✓ Minimize the use of fertilizers near catch basins, drainage ditches and waterways.

✓ Dispose of pet waste in the trash.

✓ Do not drain chemically treated swimming pools into catch basins or drainage ditches. Pool water should be held until chlorine levels are acceptable enough to discharge to catch basins or drainage ditches.

✓ If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn to encourage infiltration and use environmentally friendly safe products.



The design of this pamphlet was completed by The Town of Reading, MA
- DPW Engineering Division to raise public awareness for the EPA's
NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program. Any further questions
Call 1-781-942-9082

Take One

Stormwater Keeping It Clean

Town of Reading, MA
NPDES STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water that falls from the sky as rain, hail, or melting snow and drains into the municipal drain system, such as catch basins or a drainage structure that eventually lead to a wetland or body of water, such as a lake, stream, river or ocean.

What is a stormwater drainage system?

The stormwater drainage system is a series of catch basins, and drainage ditches that collect and channel run off from streets, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, and vegetated land surfaces. This network of pipes and ditches flow into bodies of water such as lakes, streams, rivers and oceans. The Town of Reading's storm drainage system flows into three drainage areas, the Ipswich, Aberjona, and Saugus River basins. Reading is situated at the headwaters of these three rivers which, after flowing through several communities, eventually discharge into the Atlantic Ocean.

Why should we not pollute our storm drainage system?

Since the storm drains collect all the storm water that flow into Ipswich, Aberjona, and Saugus river basins, polluting our catch basins means we are directly polluting river basins and eventually the oceans. These pollutants can impact our groundwater, wetlands and waterways and contaminate our drinking water endangering people, fish, and wildlife. By keeping our catch basins and drainage swales uncontaminated we keep the environment of Town of Reading clean.

What should you do if you suspect a storm drain is polluted?

If you see any pollutants that are entering our drainage system, please call the anonymous Town of Reading Stormwater Hotline **1-781-942-NOW1**. Pollution at catch basins, drainage ditches or wetlands, can be reported.

TYPICAL STRUCTURES OF A STORMWATER SYSTEM

Catch basin: A grated chamber or inlet designed to collect rain water which includes systems to collect debris and sediment and prevent the clogging of stormwater system



Drain Manhole: A covered opening in a street which provides access for cleaning and repairing of a stormwater system. *(Typically connecting two other stormwater drainage structures)*



Outfall: Any outlet pipe that discharges to open waters, such as a drainage ditch, wetland, detention pond, river, lake or ocean.



Culvert: A pipe of any size that diverts water such as a stream to flow under a roadway or other land.



Drainage Ditch: A stream or waterway that collects rain water and/or is connected to the town stormwater drainage system.



Just Remember C.O.P.

The best way to indentify any possible pollutants into our stormwater drainage system is **Color, Odor and Pollutants.**



White, Orange (Rust Color), Soap Suds, Oil Sheen, Paint or any unusual colors



Any odors such as Ammonia, Sulfur (Rotten Egg), Gasoline, Paint Solvents, Sewerage, Chlorine, or Fertilizers emitting from catch basins, drainage ditches, outfalls or waterways.



Trash, Motor Oils, Antifreeze, Household Chemicals, Paints, Chlorine, Detergents, Soaps, Grass Clippings, Leaves, Sweepings, Construction Materials, Pet Excrement, or Insecticides



If you identify any pollution call the 24 Hour Stormwater Hotline

1-781-942-NOW1

