

THE PROBLEM:

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the earth.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and discharge without treatment into a storm drain system or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal water.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

Polluted stormwater may have adverse effects such as algae blooms which may kill fish and other aquatic fauna, habitat destruction due to extensive sedimentation, contamination of drinking water sources, or beach closures due to elevated concentrations of bacteria.

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ON STORMWATER?

For questions about the City of Waltham's Stormwater Program and its Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program, contact the City's Engineering Department

Internet:

<http://www.city.waltham.ma.us/engineering/>

Phone:

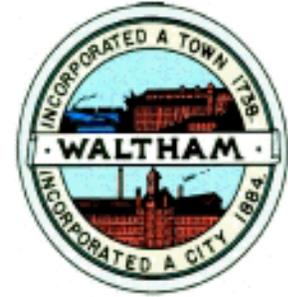
Engineering Division
781-314-3830

Water, Sewer & Drain Division
781-314-3820

Did you know?

1. The percentage of precipitation that becomes runoff in a forested area is approximately 10% while in a highly urbanized area is around 55%.
2. Urbanization increases the amount and variety of pollutants carried into streams and lakes and may include sediment, oil, pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria, viruses, road salts and heavy metals.
3. A recent National Water Quality Inventory reported that runoff from urbanized areas is the leading source of water quality impairment to surveyed estuaries and the third largest source in surveyed lakes.
4. Adopting periodic basic maintenance and preventative measures helps to drastically reduce the amount of pollutants reaching our waterbodies, eliminating not only negative ecological but also negative economic impacts.

Clean water is a collaborative effort and no contribution is ever too small



Easy Steps Businesses
Can Take to Keep
Stormwater Clean

CITY OF WALTHAM, MA

YOU CAN HELP KEEP STORMWATER CLEAN IF ...

1. Your own or maintains landscaped lawn areas.
2. You own or operate a storage area for chemicals or solid materials that may clog the storm drains, such as sand or fine gravel.
3. Your business requires washing vehicles on a regular basis.
4. Your business owns or operates a paved parking lot area.
5. Your business owns or operates a privately-owned stormwater collection system (catch basins, manholes, pipes etc.).
6. Your business owns or operates a fueling station or other automotive facilities.
7. You own or operate a food preparation establishment, such as a restaurant.
8. Your business uses dumpsters or other large containers to manage and eliminate wastes.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY?

1. Lawn areas:

- Don't overwater lawn areas.
- Use native plants that are drought tolerant and pest resistant.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and consider using slow-release fertilizers and less toxic pesticides. When pesticide and fertilizer use is necessary, follow instructions and use them in the recommended amounts.

- Plant grass or vegetation where soil is exposed.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch.
- Compost or recycle yard waste.

2. Material storage areas:

- Cover piles of solid materials whenever possible.
- Keep the piles in an area where runoff can be easily contained and cannot reach neighboring waterbodies.
- Develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with detailed operation and maintenance activities to avoid spills, and describe procedures in case of emergency.

3. Vehicle Washing:

Washing vehicles in the street can send detergents and other contaminants directly to waterbodies through the storm drain system.

- Use commercial car washes that treat or recycle wastewater.
- Wash vehicles on a pervious area so the water infiltrates into the ground.

4. Paved Areas:

Dirt, oil, and debris that collect in paved areas will be washed into the storm drain during rain events.

- Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains. Periodic sweepings with high efficiency street sweepers are highly encouraged to avoid pollutant build-up.
- Install pervious pavements or adopt other infiltration measures such as rain gardens, grassy swales or vegetated filter strips to reduce runoff whenever possible.

5. Private Stormwater Collection Systems

- Develop and execute a plan to perform routine maintenance and cleaning of your private stormwater collection system including manholes, pipes, or other treatment systems.
- Maintain a log with dates of maintenance operations and mass of dirt/debris removed.

6. Fueling Stations and Automotive Facilities

Uncovered fueling stations and vehicle maintenance facilities may allow spills to be washed away by stormwater.

- Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials.
- Provide cover over fueling stations and design or retrofit facilities for spill containment.
- Properly maintain fleet vehicles to prevent oil, gas, and other discharges from being washed into local water resources.
- Install and maintain oil/water separators.

7. Food Establishments

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that sewer pipe blockages due to fat, oil and grease (FOG) are the leading cause of sewer overflows, which may cause severe contamination in local waterbodies.

- Avoid dumping grease and oils in the sink or other sanitary or stormwater fixtures.
- Any food establishment should have a properly maintained and operated grease trap.

8. Waste Management

- Make sure waste containers are not leaking and reaching neighboring catch basins or other stormwater inlets.
- Immediately communicate leaks.