
Putnam Valley Central School District

Fact Sheet #3

Trash Management, Recycling & Hazardous Waste

WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL ABOUT STORMWATER?

Rainwater falls onto roofs, parking lots and other outdoor surfaces, and most of this water flows into storm drains, which often discharge into nearby streams, lakes and other protected water supply sources. Pollutants carried by stormwater runoff into these water resources may contain sediment, harmful bacteria and toxic substances, associated with the trash, oil, hydrocarbons, metals and other debris found on paved and unpaved surfaces. Many of the pollutants carried by stormwater runoff into nearby streams, lakes and other protected water bodies may be harmful to fish and wildlife, and in some cases may cause water supply sources to be unsafe for drinking and recreation.

HOW CAN WE MINIMIZE STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Many people don't realize it, but there are a number of simple steps we can take to reduce and minimize pollution from trash.

HOME REPAIRS

If you are a do-it-yourselfer, use non-toxic, biodegradable products. Before you begin your outdoor project, locate nearby storm drains and catch basins, and be sure that waste products from home repairs, such as mortar, concrete, debris and other chemicals, are not directed to these storm drains. Paint brushes and other application tools should be washed indoors rather than washed outside with a hose. Contact your local town official to determine how to properly dispose waste products that may pollute nearby storm drains, if you are not sure how to handle these waste products.

VEHICLE REPAIRS

Check your vehicle periodically for leaking oil, gasoline, transmission, brake and power steering fluids, and if you observe leaks, have your vehicle serviced promptly to eliminate any fluid leaks.

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**For further information, contact your SWMP Coordinator
Nick Bellantoni at 845-526-7854 or at nbellantoni@pvcsd.org**

Do not pour waste oil, automotive fluids such as, coolants, and brake fluids into storm drains. Instead, have these liquids stored, and recycle and/or dispose them appropriately. If you observe spills on your driveway, use cat litter, or other absorbent materials to clean up the oil or other chemical spills, and dispose of absorbent materials appropriately.

DON'T LITTER

Minimize pollution from litter, by disposing coffee cups, cigarette butts, gum wrappers and disposable food containers into covered trash cans. Trash and litter, carelessly disposed in parking lots, school yards, along highways, in your driveways and other outdoor surfaces, even though may appear to cause relatively small impacts on stormwater runoff, collectively, may produce significant pollutant loads on nearby streams and waterways.

PET WASTE

Animal waste material is rapidly absorbed by rainfall and carried into storm drains and into nearby streams lakes and other protected water bodies. Clean up pet droppings and dispose of promptly into nearby covered trash cans.

RECYCLE YOUR OFFICE AND HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Separate metals, plastics, paper, newspapers and magazines and glass from your office and household trash, and place in recycle bins and containers. Most towns and private refuse carting companies will provide you with suitable recycle bins or containers, free of charge, and will instruct you when and where to place your recycled trash for pickup and disposal.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Most towns and villages have a designated hazardous waste collection day for the public to drop off their hazardous wastes, for final pickup and disposal by the town or its agent. Hazardous materials such as batteries, paints and thinners and other household chemicals, should be disposed properly, during these hazardous waste collection days.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join your local school or town environmental or conservation volunteer youth groups and take action to improve local water quality by teaming up in Adopt-A-Stream or Rid Litter Day cleanup campaigns. To learn more

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about stormwater programs, and how you can participate in your community school programs, visit the PVCSD stormwater website.

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