

All About Stormwater

Town of Tewksbury, MA | tewksbury-ma.gov/stormwater



What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is any runoff from rain or snow melt that drains into the Town's drainage systems and ultimately ends up in groundwater, ponds, streams and/or wetland resource areas.

What is the Stormwater Management Program?

The Town of Tewksbury's Department of Public Works manages the Stormwater Management Program and is continuously working on fulfilling the requirements of the EPA's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) MS4 Stormwater Permit Regulations. The EPA's NPDES Stormwater Permit Regulations is federally mandated for all municipalities to eliminate all pollutants to the waters within their jurisdictions. The Town of Tewksbury's Stormwater Management Program consists of Public Education, Illicit Discharge Detection, System Mapping, Water Quality Testing, Construction Site Runoff Control, and Good House Keeping Practices.

Why Does Stormwater Matter?

As rain or snow melt flows over paved surfaces it carries with it any pollutants such as oils, fertilizer, sand, and trash. The pollutants will eventually enter groundwater, ponds, streams and/or wetland resource areas and will contaminate drinking water supplies, fish and wildlife habitat.

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Turn Over To See How You Can Help!

How can residents help keep our stormwater clean?

- ✓ Do not dump household waste such as paint, cleaning products, motor oils, antifreeze, pet waste or any other hazardous material into catch basins, streams, ponds and wetland areas.
- ✓ Minimize the use of fertilizers near grated catch basins, streams, ponds and wetland areas.
- ✓ Maintain your home's septic tank and leaching field by regularly pumping and repairing when necessary.
- ✓ Whenever possible use environmentally friendly, biodegradable products when cleaning outside.
- ✓ Do not drain chlorinated swimming pools into grated catch basins or onto the street.
- ✓ If you must wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn to encourage infiltration and use low-phosphate detergents.
- ✓ Always dispose of pet waste in the trash.
- ✓ Minimize salt use on walkways and driveways near streams, ponds and/or wetland areas.
- ✓ Make sure your vehicle or yard equipment is not leaking any oils or fluids.
- ✓ Always Remember: **ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN.**



**For More Information Please Visit:
tewksbury-ma.gov/stormwater
or call (978) 640-4440**