

Have you ever wondered where all the water goes when it rains or after the snow melts? Some of it seeps into the ground or evaporates, but much of it runs off over the land or through storm drains and then flows into our streams and ponds. This runoff water is called "stormwater."

Stormwater picks up litter, sand, bacteria, oil, and other chemicals as it flows over the land, and it carries these pollutants to our streams, ponds, and wetlands. Runoff from paved surfaces, such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops, may contribute large amounts of polluted stormwater.

Simply by putting fewer pollutants on the land, stormwater will be cleaner as it flows into our lakes and rivers. Cleaning up stormwater not only benefits your neighborhood and town, it benefits the entire network of water bodies and land that make up our watershed. We all need clean water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and for protecting wildlife.

**Keeping stormwater clean is in your best interest. Please read on to see how you can help.**

Enter the

## "SuAsCo Raffle for Stormwater Umbrellas!"



Detach and send the self-test panel with your answers and contact information to:

SuAsCo Watershed Community Council  
P.O. Box 176  
Maynard, MA 01754

Please keep the rest of the brochure.

The stormwater raffle will take place on June 30, 2004!

Our town is working hard to protect water quality by keeping pollutants out of stormwater. We're also trying to prevent flooding and erosion by managing stormwater flow. Our community has to comply with new federal and state stormwater requirements, and we need your help.



**STORMWATER matters.**

You'll see this stormwater logo a lot as our community and other cities and towns throughout Massachusetts reach out to residents for help in keeping stormwater clean. Please follow the tips in this flyer and save it as a useful reference. And please participate in our town's stormwater programs.

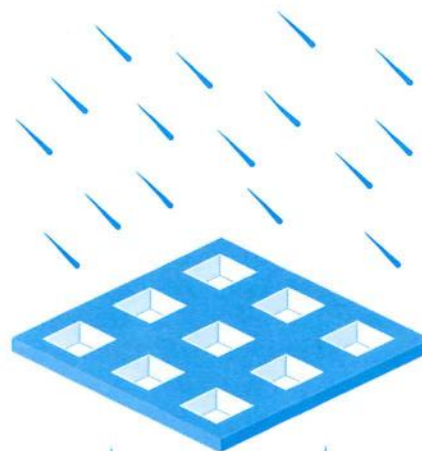
For more information about what our town is doing to clean up stormwater, you can contact:

Roger Hammond, Director  
Grafton Department of Public Works  
Phone: 508-839-5335 ext. 124  
E-mail: [dpw@town.grafton.ma.us](mailto:dpw@town.grafton.ma.us)  
Town web site: [www.town.grafton.ma.us](http://www.town.grafton.ma.us)

This brochure was created by the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council, a non-profit alliance of businesses, municipalities, environmental organizations, and state/federal/regional government agencies. For more information about stormwater, you can also visit the SuAsCo web site at [www.SuAsCo.org](http://www.SuAsCo.org)



**Help spread the word: Stormwater Matters!**



**STORMWATER matters™**

What is stormwater?  
Why should I care about it?

The word "stormwater" is new to me:  yes  no

Try this self-test before reading on.

Multiple answers are possible.

- 1) The water that flows into a storm drain in the street most likely:
  - a goes to a wastewater treatment plant
  - b goes to the nearest stream, pond, or wetland
  - c stays in the drain until it seeps into the ground.
- 2) Used motor oil can be:
  - a recycled by household hazardous waste collection programs
  - b accepted by the place where purchased with a receipt
  - c put down a storm drain because it will be treated there.
- 3) When I wash my car, it is best to:
  - a use a commercial car wash
  - b wash it on the street
  - c wash it on the lawn.
- 4) If I use too much fertilizer on my lawn, the rain will:
  - a push it deeper into the soil
  - b wash it into the nearest stream or pond
  - c dissolve it and make it harmless.
- 5) The best way to dispose of pet waste is:
  - a put it in a storm drain
  - b leave it on the lawn or curb
  - c put it in the trash or flush it down the toilet.
- 6) Polluted stormwater might impair the quality of:
  - a my drinking water
  - b my favorite boating or swimming spot
  - c the environment for aquatic species.
- 7) Stormwater is a problem for:
  - a "big business" to fix
  - b the government to fix
  - c town residents to fix.
- 8) My age bracket is:
  - < 20
  - 20 – 50
  - > 50

Name
Address
Town
Phone

# Tips for Keeping Stormwater Clean

## Pollutants from Cars:

Gas and Oil  
Antifreeze  
Metals  
Detergents



Using more fertilizer or pesticide than the label calls for wastes the product and doesn't help the lawn. The extra fertilizer or pesticide may wash away into a storm drain and out to a nearby wetland, stream, or pond where it can harm aquatic plants and animals.

## More ways that YOU can help

- Pick up after your pet and dispose of droppings in the toilet or trash
- Aim your roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain barrel
- Dispose of paint, oil, and other household chemicals at a local hazardous waste collection day
- Support community efforts to keep stormwater clean
- Coordinate a neighborhood storm drain stenciling day
- Join a stream team to help care for your neighborhood stream
- Learn more about stormwater

## Car care tips:

- Maintain your car to prevent fluid leaks
- Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, tires, and batteries
- Use a commercial carwash that treats and/or recycles the wash water
- If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn so that the water can seep into the soil, and use low-phosphate detergents in small amounts

- NEVER pour or sweep ANYTHING down a storm drain!

This includes:

Pet waste  
Motor oil  
Paint  
Litter  
Leaves  
Sand

Would you want to swim in any of this?

- Don't block storm drains with refuse or debris

Stormwater on parking lots and streets flows into storm drains so that the pavement won't be flooded. Storm drains have underground pipes that channel the stormwater directly to a nearby water body, usually without any treatment or cleansing. So whatever flows down a storm drain comes out in a nearby water body, such as a wetland, stream, or pond.

## Pollutants from Lawns:

Fertilizer  
Pesticides  
Herbicides

## Lawn care and garden tips:

- Use fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly
- Try using organic lawn care methods
- Mow 2 to 3 inches high to encourage dense growth and deter weeds
- Mulch lawn clippings and leaves
- Do not overwater your lawn
- Reduce lawn size in favor of rock gardens or natural vegetation
- Cover soil piles with tarps and replant bare areas to stop erosion

## Other Stormwater Pollutants:

Salt  
Bacteria  
Sand  
Chemicals

Our town performs many activities that are critical to keeping stormwater clean. Street sweepers pick up sand and winter debris so that these pollutants won't be washed into storm drains. Most storm drains have catch basins to trap heavy particles that must be cleaned out regularly by our town crews to keep the drains clear.

