

CARING FOR PETS

Pets are important parts of our families. And just like humans, their waste must be disposed of properly to prevent the spread of disease. If you leave pet waste on the ground, rain and melting snow can wash it into storm drains that lead to our rivers, lakes and streams.

To help protect our water supply, you must clean up after your pet immediately and you must never put pet waste in storm drains. In fact, your municipality requires pet owners to dispose of waste properly. You can do this by wrapping the waste and putting it in the trash or by flushing unwrapped waste down the toilet.

DISPOSING OF MEDICATIONS

Medications help us feel better and improve our quality of life. But improperly disposing of prescriptions and over the counter medications can be hazardous to our water supplies.

If you have medications you no longer need, don't pour them down the drain or flush them down the toilet. Instead cross out personal information on the container then mix with water, coffee grinds, cat litter or dirt. Next, put the mixture in a container and place it in the trash.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection

1-609-292-7219

www.state.nj.us/dep/stormwater

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1-202-272-0167

www.epa.gov

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STORMWATER
SOLUTIONS
KEEP THE STREAMS
CLEAN

UNITED WATER



We all have a stake in maintaining a clean and abundant water supply for ourselves and generations to come. Properly managing stormwater is one way we can all help. Stormwater is runoff from rain and melting snow that can pick up trash and toxins as it travels through streets or yards. The runoff washes these pollutants directly into streams or into storm drains which lead to streams. They can cause harm to fish, wildlife, recreation resources and our drinking water supply. Simple lifestyle changes can help us protect our water supply and our environment.

IN THE YARD

Our yards are great places to relax and unwind. Whether you enjoy growing a green lawn or a gorgeous garden, there are things you can do to help protect our water supply.



For example, use fertilizers only when needed and be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions. To minimize the need for pesticides, consider landscaping with plants that are pest and drought resistant. A mulching mower can reduce lawn waste and any excess clippings can be used to enrich the soil. Never put leaves or grass clippings in the street or in storm drains.



AROUND THE HOUSE

While the products we use around our home are helpful, they may contaminate our water supplies if they are not disposed of properly. If you have unwanted chemicals, cleaners, paints, auto fluids and other substances, never pour them down a drain or into the ground.

Instead, call your municipality and ask for information on household hazardous waste programs. If you have a septic system, be sure it is in good working order and pumped periodically.

MAINTAINING YOUR CAR

A well maintained car helps the environment in many ways. Keep your car in top running condition and tend to leaks as soon as possible. Never dispose of oil, antifreeze or other fluids in a storm drain or by pouring them into the soil. Just one quart of motor oil can contaminate one million gallons of drinking water! Instead, contact your municipality for information on recycling and disposal of hazardous materials.

