

What is a Storm Drain?

- ◆ Storm drains are the metal grates and openings found along streets at the curb.
- ◆ Storm drains and pipes are designed to quickly convey storm water away from streets to prevent flooding.

What is Storm Water?

- ◆ Storm water is runoff from rainfall and snowmelt.

Why is it a Problem?

- ◆ During a storm, water runs through yards and down streets, picking up pollutants and contaminants along the way.
- ◆ These pollutants are quickly carried to the nearest water body through the storm sewer system.

Storm drains do not treat storm water or remove pollutants!

- ◆ Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged untreated directly into the water bodies you use for swimming, fishing and recreation.

What is the Town's Role in Storm Water?

In recognition of the importance that each of us has on the quality of local water bodies like the Peconic Estuary, Moriches Bay, and Shinnecock Bay, the Town has implemented a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The Town's SWMP includes the following six program components:

- ◆ Public education and outreach
- ◆ Public participation and involvement
- ◆ Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- ◆ Construction site runoff control
- ◆ Post-construction storm water management
- ◆ Municipal pollution prevention and good housekeeping

The goal of the Town's SWMP is to reduce impacts of storm water runoff thereby improving water quality, enhancing recreational enjoyment, preventing beach closures, and ensuring that seafood is safer to eat.

Town of Southampton

Phase II Storm Water Management Program

Surface Water Quality Series:

Storm Drains: What are they?



How you can prevent local water pollution!



What you can do to protect water quality in Southampton

Did You Know?

Whether you live on the waterfront or further inland, your daily activities can pollute Long Island's waters.

Some common sources of pollutants found in storm water include:

- ◆ Fertilizers and pesticides
- ◆ Household chemicals
- ◆ Automotive fluids
- ◆ Car washing
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Detergents
- ◆ Pet waste
- ◆ Sanitary overflow
- ◆ Garbage and litter
- ◆ Sediments

Small amounts of pollution can add up to a big problem! Storm water pollution can have harmful effects on water quality, beach access, recreation, fish, wildlife, and your health.

The Good News!

With these few simple steps, you can reduce storm water pollution!

Lawn Care

- ◆ Do not overwater your lawn.
- ◆ Limit fertilizers and pesticides.
- ◆ Compost or mulch yard waste.
- ◆ Do not sweep or blow clippings into the street or storm drains.
- ◆ Choose native plant species.

Auto Care

- ◆ Repair leaks and drips as soon as possible.
- ◆ Recycle motor oil, oil filters and other automotive fluids at vehicle service centers or parts stores.
- ◆ Take your car to a commercial car wash.

Dog Waste

- ◆ Bag it and put it in the trash.
- ◆ Flush it down the toilet
- ◆ Never throw dog waste or bags in storm drains.

Around the House

- ◆ Purchase only the chemicals and products in the amounts that you need.
- ◆ Read and follow directions for household chemical use, storage and disposal carefully.
- ◆ Have septic tanks inspected and pumped regularly.
- ◆ Keep storm drains and ditches clear of debris.

But Most Importantly:

Never dump, sweep, blow or hose off anything that you would not want to swim in or drink onto the ground or down a storm drain.

