

What are Pathogens?

- ◆ Microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, algae, and protozoan) that cause diseases in humans.
- ◆ They are commonly associated with animal droppings and human sewage.

How do Pathogens Enter Surface Waters?

- ◆ Storm water washes pathogens from the soil, sidewalks, and streets in your neighborhood into storm drains and through a network of storm sewers.
- ◆ Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated directly into the water bodies you use for swimming, fishing and recreation.

What are the Threats?

- ◆ Diseases are contracted through direct contact with or ingestion of contaminated water or consumption of shellfish from contaminated waters.
- ◆ Economic losses associated with health care expenses and the closure of shellfish beds and swimming beaches.

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:

Pathogens



**How you can
reduce pathogens in
surface waters!**



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 pathogens in storm water include:

- ◆ Dog and other pet waste
- ◆ Horse waste
- ◆ Septic systems/cesspools
- ◆ Geese and other wildlife waste
- ◆ Livestock waste

Large amounts of pathogens can build up in storm water, which is then discharged into the nearest water body through a network of storm drains and pipes.

To prevent possible illness in beach goers, public beaches are closed when pathogen counts are too high. Clean waters are important for public safety and for the economic health of your community.

The Good News!

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

Dog Waste

- ◆ Always clean up after your dog.
- ◆ Flush it down the toilet; or bag it and put it in the trash.
- ◆ Never throw dog waste or bags into storm drains.

Cat Waste

- ◆ Dispose of litter in a plastic bag in the trash.

Geese and Wildlife

- ◆ Do not feed waterfowl and other wildlife.

Horses and Livestock

- ◆ Clean up manure and soiled bedding on a regular basis.
- ◆ Store manure piles under cover and away from creeks and other drainage areas.
- ◆ Direct storm water away from manure piles.

Septic Systems/Cesspools

- ◆ Have your system inspected once every three years by a professional.
- ◆ Pump your tank as necessary, generally every three to five years.
- ◆ Use water efficiently.
- ◆ Avoid driving or parking vehicles on your drainfield.
- ◆ Plant only grass over and near your drainfield to avoid damage from roots.

Dumping waste in storm drains is illegal and punishable by fine and/or imprisonment!

