

Be a Pollution Solution: What you can do to clean stormwater

Stormwater pollution comes from many sources so residents, schools, and businesses can all make good choices to help keep our streams clean. You can keep the stormwater that leaves your home or workplace clean by minimizing pollutants.



**Middlesex
Township, PA**
Stormwater Management
Program



Keep it clean! Improve water quality & beautify your neighborhood

- **Don't litter.** Styrofoam, plastics and other trash can injure and kill fish and wildlife... And trash is unsightly.
- **Pick-up after pets** and dispose of waste properly at home, on a walk, and at the park. Pet waste can contribute excess nutrients, harmful bacteria, parasites, and viruses to our water and transmit disease to humans. Plus, unexpected encounters with pet wastes are messy and smelly!
- **Close lids** on outdoor garbage and recycling containers. This prevents rainwater from collecting in the container and leaking pollution through seams and holes.
- **Sweep up** yard debris rather than hosing down areas. Cover landscape stockpiles (soil, sand, mulch, etc.) to prevent them from blowing or washing off your yard.
- **Don't dump waste**, including leaves and grass clippings, in storm inlets, ditches, swales or gutters.
- **Clean paint brushes and other equipment** in the sink, not outdoors.



Bonus! Take care of your vehicle and you take care of the environment

- **Use a commercial car wash** or wash your car on your lawn with biodegradable detergents. Wash water can contaminate streams with excess phosphorous.
- **Service your car regularly** to prevent leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Treat spills immediately with an absorbent material like kitty litter-remember to properly dispose of absorbent material.
- **Dispose of chemicals** (motor oil, antifreeze, paint) properly at designated collection or recycling locations. Never pour it into the storm drain!

*Antifreeze will **kill pets** that drink from contaminated puddles.*

Property Smarts

- **Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly** to prevent excess run-off. Spot treat only. Do not apply before rainfall or to frozen ground as it may simply be washed off. Use environmentally friendly pest control or lawn care methods, such as using native plants and grasses.
- **Reduce paving** as much as possible. When possible, utilize pervious materials.

See a problem?

- A pipe or storm drain that is stained or has strong odors
- Flow in the storm water system during times of dry weather
- Storm drains that need maintenance
- Illegal dumping



Credit: knoxcounty.org

Report Problems using the Citizen Complaint Reporting Form on our webpage:

<https://middlesextwp.com/ms4/citizen-complaint-illicit-discharge-reporting-form/>

Actively Advocate!

- **Join an Adopt-a-Highway program** or organize a roadway, park, or stream clean-up.
- **Install rain barrels** to capture storm water and use to water the garden or lawn or direct downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns to increase infiltration and reduce polluted run-off.
- **Plant trees, shrubs, and ground cover** to help rainwater soak into the ground. Seed any bare areas to avoid soil erosion.
- **Be a storm water vigilante.** Let the Township know if you see a clogged storm water drain in your neighborhood or report a construction site that has mud in storm water runoff, or vehicles that track mud and dirt onto the road.