Stormwater Coalition of Albany County

A partnership to protect water quality

A number of communities and government agencies in Albany County have joined together to develop a stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. The goal of the Coalition is to utilize County-wide collaboration to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution.

The Coalition, formed in 2008 via an intermunicipal agreement, meets monthly to develop and implement a stormwater management program which complies with New York State's Phase II Stormwater regulations.

Members

Albany County
City of Albany
Town of Bethlehem
City of Cohoes
Town of Colonie
Village of Colonie
Village of Green Island
Town of Guilderland
Village of Menands
Town of New Scotland
City of Watervliet
Village of Voorheesville
SUNY-Albany

Supporters

Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District

For information about the Coalition and how it is working to address the requirements of the Phase II Stormwater Rule, contact the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County.
E-mail address: swcoalition@albanycounty.com

Stormwater Coalition of Albany County

Pesticide Application, Lawn Care & Landscaping…

How to Prevent Water & Storm Sewer Pollution

Best Management Practices for:

- Landscapers
- Pesticide Applicators
- Lawn Maintenance Crews
- Developers
- Home Builders
- Patio & Deck Contractors
- Homeowners
- Construction Inspectors

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Stormwater Pollution

What is Stormwater?

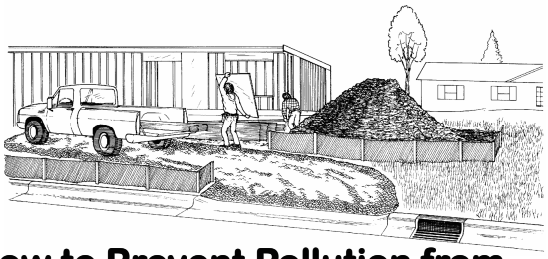
Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and other potential pollutants.

What is the Problem?

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as *stormwater pollution.*

Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen can cause the overgrowth of algae resulting in oxygen depletion in waterways. Toxic substances from motor vehicles, and careless application of pesticides and fertilizers threaten water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from animal wastes and improper connections to storm sewer systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming and fish consumption. Eroded soil is a pollutant as well. It clouds the waterway and interferes with the habitat of fish and plant life.

Fortunately, stormwater pollution can be prevented or minimized by implementing Stormwater Management Practices which are procedures or activities that reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater.



How to Prevent Pollution from Landscaping and Lawn Care

Best Management Practices

- Cover and contain topsoil and mulch during installation
- Plant rain gardens of native drought– and pest-resistant plants to collect and filter rainwater
- Plant vegetated filter areas or swales to trap pollutants along streets and driveways
- Install pervious pavement and gravel driveways to reduce stormwater runoff
- Do not drain swimming pools to storm drains or road ditches
- Install vegetative buffers along streams and drainage pathways
- Compost or mulch leaves and yard debris rather than hauling to dumps
- Direct downspouts away from driveways or storm drains, or install rain barrels to collect roof runoff
- Maintain septic systems to prevent failure and inspect every 3 years
- Sweep up litter and debris from driveways and parking lots rather than hosing debris into storm drains
- Install and maintain sediment and erosion control measures during soil disturbing activities
- Reduce amount of paved surfaces

How to Prevent Pollution from Pesticide Applications

Everything you apply to the lawn can potentially contaminate surface and ground waters.

Best Management Practices

- Triple rinse and recycle empty pesticide and fertilizer containers
- Use proper spray notification signage and comply with neighbor notification regulations
- Comply with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation pesticide application regulations
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to avoid runoff or leaching from excess chemical applications
- Avoid using chemicals near waterways or storm drains
- Dispose of unused or excess pesticides in accordance with NYS DEC and US EPA regulations
- Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials
- Fill tanks on a gravel surface, away from storm drains, sewers or ditches
- Avoid spraying in windy conditions or when rain is forecast
- Provide spill containment at storage facilities and store chemicals away from floor drains