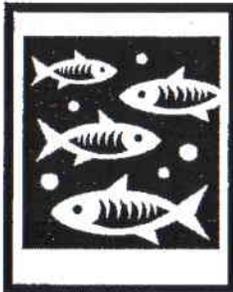


Every little effort helps!

Runoff from our roads, buildings and homes contributes to pollution of our surface waters. Yet, there is so much we can do to clear up the quality of our streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs and rivers.

As we learn more about how our household and business management practices affect water quality, we'll begin to think twice about our habits. Changing habits may take some effort, but these simple changes will revive our streams, lakes, rivers and other surface waters over time.

Prepared by: Town of North Salem Town Board



Town of North Salem

Stormwater Management

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To receive an email with the internet links in this pamphlet and other links, send an email with the subject line, REQUESTING STORMWATER LINKS, to Cynthia Curtis at cynthiamcurtis@gmail.com or call her at 914-669-4393

TOWN OF NORTH SALEM

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution



Information for Residents

STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT

What is stormwater? What is the problem?

Rain or melting snow falls to the ground and it may either soak in and become part of the groundwater, or it may run off into drainageways such as ditches, streams, ponds, lakes, rivers or other surface waters. When it runs into drainageways, it is called stormwater or runoff. Stormwater from rooftops and paved areas runs over bare soils and lawns and collects materials on the way. Runoff may pick up soil, animal waste, oil, grease, pesticides, fertilizers, salt, dirt



and other debris and possible pollutants and these materials are carried along in stormwater. All the materials and potential pollutants from runoff enter drainageways and are carried to surface waters: streams, lakes and rivers. Soil, wastes, debris and other pollutants harm our surface waters. Polluted runoff presents the most serious threat to clean water (see Internet Information, links 1, 2 and 3).

What can we do? There are many things you can do at home or the office to prevent stormwater runoff pollution (see Internet Information, links 4, 5 and 6):

Use pesticides, fertilizers and cleaning fluids sparingly. Learn about and use Integrated Pest Management.

Sweep driveways and walkways.

Never dump anything into drainageways or storm drains.

Plant bare spots in your yard.

Compost yard waste and other wastes.

Direct spouts from rooftops away from paved areas.

Get your car washed at the carwash instead of washing it in your driveway.

Check your car for leaks and spills, clean spills with absorbent material, and dispose of properly.

Pick up after your pet and dispose of waste properly.

Have your septic system inspected and pumped regularly. Don't flush household chemicals and items that will damage the system.

Sources:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
website (web address #1 on next panel)

United States Environmental Protection Agency
website (web address #4 on next panel)

Westchestergov.com

Internet Information: These are internet addresses (links) to websites about stormwater and how to prevent water pollution. Internet access is available at your local library:

1. NYSDEC Website: What is Stormwater?

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm>

2. Stormwater Manager's Resource Center, with links to the US EPA and other websites:

<http://www.stormwatercenter.net/>

3. The Stormwatercenter.net link above includes a slide show, which can be found directly at:

<http://www.cwp.org/water.htm>

4. EPA pamphlet, "After the Storm":

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/>