

Stormwater Management Education

The Solution to Stormwater Pollution

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!

Whenever illicit discharges or other pollution is observed to be affecting the storm water system, for example, if someone is seen dumping used oil into a storm water inlet, etc., please call the pollution hotline numbers:

- 1) During working hours (8:00 – 4:00) call #215-295-8181 and ask for Robert A. Seward.**
- 2) After working hours call NON EMERGENCY POLICE DISPATCH #215-291-8111.**
- 3) If you are unable to reach someone at the above phone numbers, call the PA DEP – Southeast Regional Office #484-250-5900.**

**DEP – Southeast Regional Office
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401
484-250-5900**

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Businesses need to be aware that things they do or products they use in their daily operations can enter the stormwater system and effect our water sources. Runoff from construction sites, spills at fueling areas and chemicals used to keep outdoor areas clean can be picked up by rainwater and whisked into the storm sewer system. Visit the [National Menu of Stormwater Best Management Practices \(BMPs\)](#) site to learn what stormwater practices are required by law and what businesses can do help keep pollutants out of the stormwater system.

Pet Waste and Water Quality

Did you know the deposit Fido made on the lawn this morning is a growing threat to our environment? Did you also know that studies have found that 40 percent of pet owners do not pick up after their pets?

The average dog produces a half a pound of waste per day. In 2009, 39,650 dogs were licensed by their owners in Bucks County. That amounts to almost 20,000 pounds of dog waste dumped on the ground, here where we live, every day. If 40% of the pet owners in Bucks County don't pick up after their four-footed friends, the amount of dog waste left behind on the ground to decompose or be carried away by stormwater runoff to our creeks and waterways adds up to a whopping 1,500 tons a year!

When pet waste reaches our waterways, the untreated bacteria, nutrients and parasites contaminate the water and pose health risks to humans and other animals. Don't let your dog be a canine sewage pipe. Flush your dog's waste down the toilet, toss it in the trash or better yet, get a doggy composter.

Be a responsible pet parent; always remember to Stop, Stoop and Scoop. Your pet(s) and the environment will thank you!

Fertilize Your Lawn, Not Your Driveway!

The main objective in applying fertilizer should be to add necessary nutrients in the required amounts and at the proper time to achieve good quality turf. Fertilizer that is accidentally broadcast onto impervious surfaces such as streets, sidewalks and driveways and not swept up will be washed into our streams and creeks when it rains. Nutrients and pesticides in the fertilizer can harm fish and animals in our waterways. Drop spreaders provide a more precise application than rotary

spreaders that disperse particles in a wide pattern. Always sweep or blow stray fertilizer back onto the lawn or bag it to use another day. Always follow the instructions on how much fertilizer to apply. Applying more than the recommended amount is not only harmful to your lawn and the environment, it is also an unnecessary expense. Remember: Only rain down the drain!

Flood Protection Information

A few neighborhoods in Middletown Township suffered heavy flooding damage in both 1996 and 1999. The Township wishes to ensure that all residents and business owners who have suffered damage from these and other storms are informed about flood protection. The following information provides property owners with ideas of what they can do to protect themselves.

Flood Insurance: If you are required to have flood insurance and you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. Flood insurance typically covers all surface floods. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have already been flooded. Some people may have purchased flood insurance because a bank required it for a mortgage or home improvement loan. These policies generally cover the building structure but not the contents. Usually there is more damage to furniture and contents than there is to a structure. If you are covered, check out the policy and make sure you have contents coverage. Remember, even if the last flood missed you or you have done some flood proofing, the next flood could be worse.

Flood Protection: Flood protection can involve a variety of changes to your house and property -- changes that can vary in complexity and cost. You may be able to make some types of changes yourself. But complicated or large-scale changes and those that affect the structure of your house or its electrical wiring and plumbing should be carried out only by a professional contractor licensed to work in Middletown Township. One example of flood protection is adding a waterproof veneer to the exterior walls of your house. This is something that only a licensed contractor should do.

Homeowners, contractors and businesses can visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/bestpractices and www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtm for up to date information on planning, prevention and best practices for flood protection and management.

For more information, visit:

- cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
- www.epa.gov
- [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Management Program](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection-Southeast Region](#)
- [Bucks County Conservation District](#)