

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Actions You Can Take to Protect and Restore Barnegat Bay

## Why does Barnegat Bay need our help?

Long appreciated for its great aesthetic, economic and recreational value, an array of human impacts now threaten the health of Barnegat Bay.

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain and snow melt into ditches, storm drains, streams, rivers and ultimately, Barnegat Bay.

This stormwater pollution is one of Barnegat Bay's greatest threats to clean water and the rivers and creeks that drain into it. Fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, animal waste, detergents, grass clippings, yard waste and litter are all examples of stormwater pollution.

## Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need to fertilize.
- Use a drop spreader to apply fertilizer.
- Sweep up fertilizer from pavement and other hard surfaces after applying.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Follow the instructions on the bag label for correct application procedures.
- Try alternatives to pesticides, such as plants that repel insects.
- Properly store fertilizers and pesticide.
- Landscape your property using native vegetation and plants.



To learn more about the proper use of fertilizer, go to [www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater](http://www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater).

As a resident, business, or visitor of Barnegat Bay, there are everyday actions you can take to help reduce stormwater pollution.



## Clean up after your pet

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up pet wastes.
- Dispose of pet waste in the trash or un-wrapped in a toilet.
- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

## Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed ducks, geese, or other forms of wildlife in public areas.

## Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles and keep it out of storm drains.
- Reduce, re-use and recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.

To learn more about the Barnegat Bay Ten Point Action Plan, go to [www.barnegatbay.nj.gov](http://www.barnegatbay.nj.gov).

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

## Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Use leaves and grass clippings for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

## Be a green boater

- Obey no wake zones and other navigational aids.
- Use pump-out stations and vessels, and don't discharge raw sewage into open waters.
- Use non-toxic, biodegradable materials when cleaning, repairing and maintaining your boat.
- Collect paint chips, dust and residue and dispose of it in the trash.



## Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Do not pour household or commercial cleaning products, including lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze and paints, down storm drains or into open water.
- Properly label and store hazardous products.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

## Take action and be part of the solution

*Stormwater pollution is one of Barnegat Bay's greatest threats.* By sharing the responsibility and making these small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water in the Bay and saves the high cost of cleaning it up once it becomes dirty.

## For More Information

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Nonpoint Source Pollution Control  
(609) 633-7021  
Office of Communications  
(609) 984-1795



To learn more about water quality and stormwater pollution, go to [www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org)

**IF YOU WASH  
YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY,  
YOU MIGHT AS WELL WASH IT  
IN THE LAKE.**



**Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which  
flows directly into our streams, lakes,  
rivers and the ocean.  
So what can you do?**



**[www.cleanwaterNJ.org](http://www.cleanwaterNJ.org)**

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH WASHING YOUR CAR?

Washing your car on a paved surface can allow the soapy wash water and other pollutants, like oil and grease, to run off into a storm drain. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that, in large amounts can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. The soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains, which flows directly into lakes, rivers and the ocean. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow, which can be harmful to the water quality.

### YOU CAN HELP!

- Take your car to a car washing facility, rather than washing it yourself. Commercial car washes treat and recycle the water.
- If you can't get to a car washing facility, wash your car on an unpaved surface and use biodegradable soap.
- Organize a Car Wash Fundraiser for a local organization. Visit [www.cleanwaterNJ.org](http://www.cleanwaterNJ.org) to learn how.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER?

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to New Jersey's clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots, and lawns into storm drains, then directly to our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

**Did you know more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste, and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater.**



[www.cleanwaterNJ.org](http://www.cleanwaterNJ.org)



Thanks to the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

**IF YOU USE TOO MUCH  
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## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES?

Fertilizers help plants grow by adding nutrients to the soil. Pesticides (including herbicides) are any toxic substances used to kill insects, animals or plants. If fertilizers or pesticides are improperly applied, they can wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and directly to our lakes, rivers, and the ocean. These chemicals can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Too much fertilizer washing into a lake can cause algae to bloom in lakes, which will affect swimming, fishing and boating.

### YOU CAN HELP!

- Test your soil at your County's Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office, or buy a self-test kit.
- Use natural, slow-release nitrogen, or low phosphorus fertilizers.
- Look into natural alternatives to fertilizers and pesticides, such as integrated pest management (IPM).
- If you need to use fertilizers or pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply.
- Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before it rains. This will not allow the fertilizers or pesticides to penetrate through the soil.
- Use drought-resistant native plants in gardens; they require less fertilizer and less water.
- Use a mulching mower instead of bagging grass clippings.

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## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH LITTER?

When was the last time you saw someone littering? Litter just doesn't appear — it's the result of careless actions. No matter where litter is discarded, it usually ends up in the street, where it washes down storm drains and ultimately flows to local waterways.

Littering is not only unsightly, it's a threat to wildlife and their habitat. Before you flick a cigarette butt out of your window or throw out a plastic bottle, consider this: Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of marine life, birds, and other animals, because they thought it was food. Birds and marine life have also been found trapped or tangled in plastic items such as six-pack drink holders, plastic bags and fishing line. Please be considerate, and protect our wildlife and our water.

### YOU CAN HELP!

- Set an example for others, especially children, by not littering.
- Carry a litterbag in your car.
- Make sure trash cans have lids that can be securely fastened.
- If you have curbside trash collection, don't put loose trash in boxes.
- Prevent trash cans from being knocked over by the wind and animals.
- Tie papers in a bundle before placing them in a curbside recycling bin.
- If you own a business, check dumpsters daily to see that top and side doors are closed.
- If you or a family member is involved in a civic group, scouting, or recreational sports program, encourage the group to "adopt" a spot in your town and maintain it on a regular basis.
- Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage and debris and ask that the material be removed.
- Volunteer to help organize a cleanup.

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LET IT LEAK IN THE OCEAN.**



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## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH MOTOR OIL?

Oil does not dissolve in water. When motor oil runs into storm drains either from changing your car's oil or from leaky cars, it goes directly to our lakes, rivers and the ocean. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic and can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Did you know that one pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field? Used motor oil is the largest single source of all oil pollution in lakes, streams and rivers. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into our waters.

### YOU CAN HELP!

- Keep your car well maintained.
- Regularly check your car for leaks and schedule tune-ups. If you find leaks or drips, have your car repaired.
- Take your car to a service center to the change oil.
- If you do change your own oil, do it in a garage, never on the street. Use a self-contained oil pan and discard the oil at a local service center for recycling.
- NEVER discard oil, gas, or antifreeze into a storm drain.
- If you spill hazardous fluids, contain it immediately with rags and cat litter. Clean up the spill and properly dispose of the waste.

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## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PET WASTE?

Rain can wash pet waste that sits on a lawn or unpaved surface into storm drains, ultimately ending up in our lakes, rivers and the ocean. Pet waste contains coliform bacteria and other pollutants that can make people sick, and often cause beach closures on lakes or the ocean. Coliform bacteria can contaminate shellfish, which causes people to get very sick when they are eaten. Bacteria from pet waste can also pollute your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Pet waste is not only a health hazard but also a nuisance in our neighborhoods.

### YOU CAN HELP!

- Use newspaper, plastic bags, or a pooper-scooper to pick up the waste when you walk your pet.
- Properly dispose of pet waste into the trash or toilet. (Do NOT dispose of newspaper or plastic bags in the toilet.)
- Do not dispose of pet waste in storm drains.

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