

The Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority and Pennsylvania



Department of Environmental Protection

in their ongoing program to improve the environmental quality of the Hazleton region present this message on Pollution Prevention.

Water Pollution - It starts with you

Unlike the wastewater that drains from your household through the sanitary sewer system to a wastewater treatment plant, much of the water which flows from exposed surfaces, such as sidewalks, driveways and streets, enters the storm sewer system where it is released untreated into our local waters. Thus, any chemicals or hazardous products that are in contact with these exposed surfaces can be swept up with the stormwater and discharge to local water bodies. In order to preserve our marine environment, we ask you to make a personal commitment to help keep our waters clean.

Here are some other tips to prevent stormwater pollution:



Around your Home

- Pave as little of your property as possible. Use gravel, interlocking stone or brick instead of concrete or asphalt.
- Reduce your use of environmentally harmful products. Use alternatives such as baking soda, vinegar and hot water as a drain cleaner or vinegar and water as an all-purpose cleaner.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste such as paint at collection or recycling depots; never dump them directly into storm drains.
- If you have oil heating, regularly check your fuel storage tank for leaks and replace or repair the tank if necessary.
- Drain your hot tub and swimming pool water slowly onto your lawn (but not onto your drainfield), not into storm drains. Where possible, dechlorinate the water before draining.
- Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them off.



Around your Yard

- Collect pet wastes and bury or dispose of them in the garbage (if you have an onsite sewage system, bury the waste away from the drain field).
- Reduce your use of fertilizers and pesticides. If you must use them, follow instructions carefully and be careful using them near a water body.
- Prune infested vegetation and use natural predators to keep pests in check. Pesticides can kill beneficial and desirable insects, such as ladybugs, as well as pests.
- Compost yard and kitchen waste and use it to boost your garden's health as an alternative to chemical fertilizers.
- Grow native plants in your garden - they require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Plant trees, shrubs and plants to slow water running off your property. This helps to prevent soil erosion and to increase water absorption.
- Set your mower to cut only the top 1/3 of the grass blade. Your lawn will be healthier, absorb more rain, and filter sediments.
- Control sprinkler run-off by sprinkling only when necessary. Also, try to keep sprinklers directed away from paved surfaces.

Around the Car

- Check your car's fuel, oil, brake, transmission, exhaust and cooling systems regularly. Fix leaks or problems immediately.
- Use a drop cloth if you choose to fix-it-yourself.
- Recycle used motor oil, antifreeze and batteries at collection centers.
- Use phosphate-free biodegradable products to clean your car. Wash your car over gravel or grassy areas, but not over an onsite sewage system. Go to a car wash if necessary.
- Use your car less often. Walk, bike, carpool or take public transit.

For more Pollution Prevention and Combined Sewer Overflow information visit the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority website at www.ghjsa.org or the Department of Environmental Protection at www.dep.state.pa.us