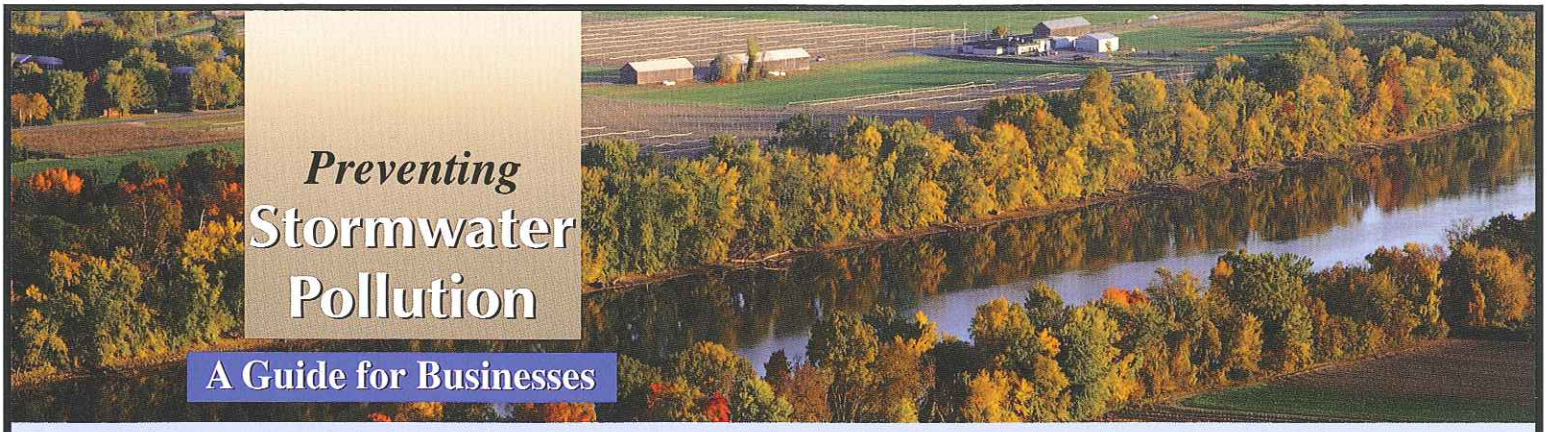


Preventing Stormwater Pollution

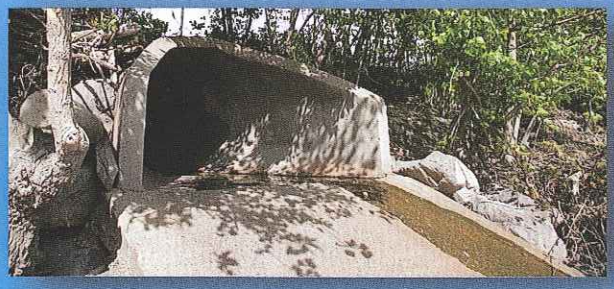
A Guide for Businesses

There is a big difference between a sanitary sewer and a storm drain.

The ***sewer system*** takes all wastewater from toilets, sinks and showers to a wastewater treatment facility, where the water is treated before it is discharged to a water body.

Storm Drain / Catch Basin

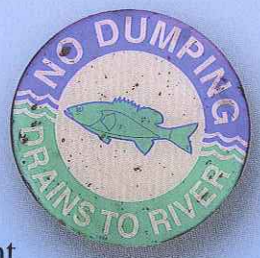
The ***storm drain system***, on the other hand, collects rainwater from city streets and urban areas to prevent flooding. Unfortunately, chemicals, oil, trash and other debris that have been spilled accidentally or intentionally can also enter the storm drain system. The water from storm drains typically flows untreated to a nearby stream, river or other water body, causing water pollution.



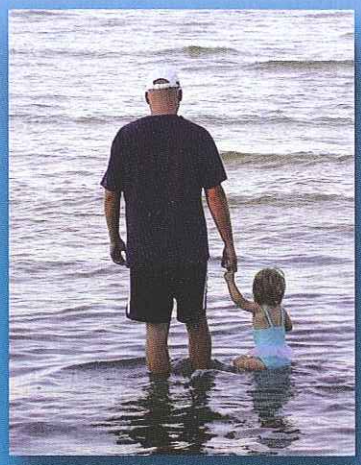
Storm Drain Outfall

Stormwater Pollution causes erosion, habitat degradation, and poor water quality, impacting commercial and recreational fishing, swimming, and boating.

Dumping waste onto the street is a large contributor of water pollution in the country and it is against the law.



Your business can help protect the Connecticut River and other local water resources by adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) – simple, inexpensive and environmentally friendly ways to prevent water pollution.



In most communities, dumping waste into the storm drain is punishable by fines.

Only Rain Down the Drain

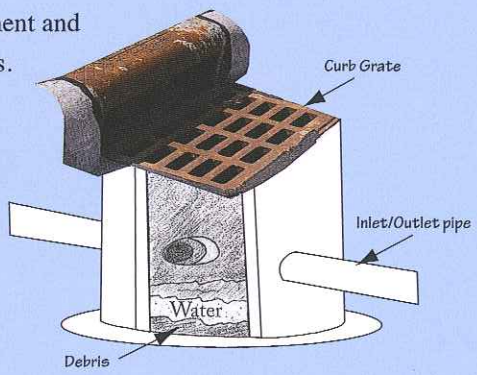
- Never dispose of any wastewater down the storm drain. Use the sewer or local recycling center.
- Sweep up trash instead of using a hose.
- Use non-toxic products for cleaning. Make your own general purpose cleaner with vinegar and baking soda: http://www.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm
- Maintain a clean and orderly work environment - keep your property free of trash, oil, grease, etc. Soak up leaks and spills from vehicles and machinery with an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sand and dispose of properly.
- Stencil storm drain inlets and catch basins with a "No Dumping" message and inspect and maintain them regularly.
- Train employees on good housekeeping practices and pollution prevention.
- Carpool with co-workers and make sure vehicles are maintained to avoid leaks.
- Wash your vehicles at a car wash that recycles water (ask your car wash if they do), or wash on a lawn so the soapy water does not flow directly to the storm drain.

In the Winter

- Use sand and salt to protect against icy conditions, but use only what is needed. Consider sweeping up sand between storms and reusing it.
- If you use de-icing agents, follow the manufacturer's instructions and use as sparingly as possible.
- Do not sweep sand into the street or into storm drains.
- Do not store or dump snow or sand into or near streams.
- Store snow on land where contaminants and debris can be gradually released, contained or collected. Pile snow on grass areas or other porous surfaces where there is at least 30 inches of soil, and as far away from storm drains as possible.

In the Fall

- Do not rake leaves into catch basins or storm drains.
- Consider chopping up leaves and using them as mulch for planting beds and around shrubs.
- When using fall fertilizers, use as sparingly as possible following the manufacturer's instructions. Do not apply fertilizers between November and April.
- Remove all trash and debris from catch basin or storm drain.
- ***Clean Your Catch Basin!*** Inspect your catch basin and, if needed, remove sediment and leaves.



Spring and Summer

- Avoid or minimize use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Seek alternative pest control methods. However, when used, follow manufacturer instructions and keep out of drainage paths.
- Choose native plants and grasses. They require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- After the last snow, be sure to ***Sweep in the Spring!*** Remove sand and other debris.
- ***Clean Your Catch Basin!*** Remove winter sand from basin sumps.

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PVPC

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution log onto www.ThinkBlueMA.org