

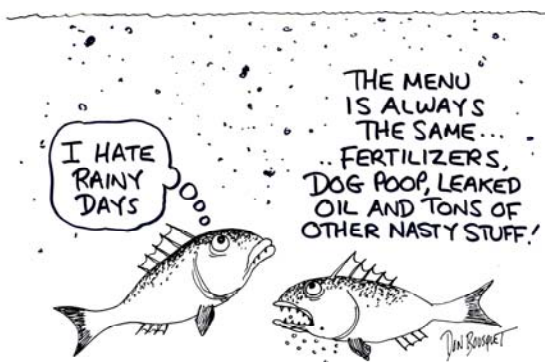
WHAT IS STORMWATER? WHERE DOES IT GO?

HOW DO MY DECISIONS IMPACT IT?

Stormwater is the water you see flowing down the street when it rains. This water flows from rooftops, lawns, and roadways. It flows into our catch basins, wetlands, and eventually enters our rivers, streams, and bays.

Currently, many Rhode Island towns, including WARWICK, are working to reduce the effects of polluted stormwater runoff. Minimizing the amount of contaminants entering these water bodies will improve our beaches, fish habitat, and will generally improve the quality of life for all residents.

- Eric Earls, P.E., Warwick City Engineer



Polluted stormwater is the result of local land-use policies and our everyday personal actions. However, because our personal choices have such an impact, there are many opportunities for YOU to do something about the problem.

The Two To Live By

Lists can be daunting. So we've come up with the following recommendations to use as a rule-of-thumb:

- Keep as much water as possible off of paved surfaces
- Keep the water that does run off as clean as possible



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The Top To-Dos

The following list offers simple suggestions as to how you can control stormwater impacts on your own property:

Yard Care

1. Never dump, wash, or rake anything into the path of a stormdrain.
2. Sweep spilled fertilizers, grass clippings, and soil off sidewalks and driveways and back onto the lawn. Sweep, don't hose, the driveway.
3. Water wisely: the lawn is usually happy with 1 inch per week, and that includes rainwater!
4. Divert rooftop runoff to a rain barrel or onto the lawn rather than a driveway. Collected water can even be used for watering plants.
5. Reduce the amount of fertilizers and pesticides that you apply to your lawn. You'll save money, too!

Home Care

6. Never put hazardous household wastes (paint, paint thinner, oven cleaners, etc.) down stormdrains, indoor drains, or the trash. Call the Eco Depot at 942-1430 x 241.
7. If you have a septic system, have it inspected every year, and have it pumped at least every three to five years.

Auto Care

8. If you change your own motor oil, recycle the used oil.
9. Wash your vehicle at a designated car wash or on grass—not in the driveway.

Pet Care

10. Scoop your dog's poop. Then throw it in the trash.
11. Don't feed waterfowl.

