



This brochure was created by the Town of Jamestown's Public Works Department in fulfillment of requirements under its Phase II MS4 Municipal Outreach Program

For More Information Please Visit:

www.jamestownri.net/pw/swm

www.ristormwatersolutions.org

THE TOWN OF JAMESTOWN

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THE TOWN OF JAMESTOWN



Preventing Stormwater Pollution:

Jamestown Residents can make a difference!

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



Why is runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to the bay. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water we use for swimming and fishing.



The effects of pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic life to grow and survive. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

Ways You Can Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Lawn and Garden Maintenance



Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

- Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or alternative pest control methods whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.



Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

- Picking up after your pet is easy, if you're prepared. Simply carry a plastic bag with you on every walk with your dog. Then throw it in the nearest trash can, and you're done
- Avoid letting your dog do his business within 200 feet of a water body.
- Animal waste should not be placed in a compost pile because the parasites, bacteria, and viruses are not readily destroyed during the composting process and can be passed on to humans.
- And, of course, never throw dog waste into a stormdrain.



Septic System Maintenance

- Have your system inspected and maintained on a regular basis. The Town of Jamestown's Onsite Wastewater Management Ordinance requires routine inspection every 3—5 years.



- Do not drive or park vehicles on your leachfield
- Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

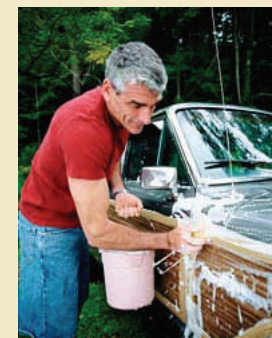


For more information on The Town's wastewater management program please visit: www.jamestownri.net/pw/wwm

Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.

- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your lawn so that the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and machinery for leaks and spills.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand
- Dispose of used auto fluids, paints and batteries during hazardous waste collection programs.



Residential Landscaping

Permeable Pavement:

Traditional concrete and asphalt don't allow water to soak into the ground. Instead these surfaces rely on storm drains to divert unwanted water. Permeable pavement systems allow rain and snowmelt to soak through decreasing stormwater runoff.

Rain Barrels:

You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.



Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales:

Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or pavement areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.

Vegetated Filter Strips:

Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.

