

Stormwater pollution is one of the most difficult sources of water pollution to control. Because stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere, public awareness of the steps citizens can take to prevent stormwater pollution will help to protect our water resources. By putting fewer pollutants on the land, stormwater will be cleaner as it flows into our lakes, rivers and the ocean.

- Never pour or sweep anything down a storm drain. This includes pet waste, motor oil, paint, litter, leaves, and sand.
- Do not block storm drains with refuse or debris.
- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads. Fertilizer should be organic.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- Compost your yard waste. Do not place grass clippings or leaf litter in or near wetlands.
- Avoid pesticides. Learn about Integrated Pest management (IPM).
- Do not over-water your lawn.
- Reduce lawn size by planting rock gardens, native shrubs and trees, and/or native pollinator wildflower gardens
- Aim your roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain barrel or rain garden.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway. If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn so that the water can seep into the soil, and use low-phosphate detergents in small amounts.
- Check your car for leaks. Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, tires, and batteries. Any leaks should be cleaned up with an absorbent and disposed of, not washed with water into the lawn or street.
- Pick up after your pet and dispose of droppings in the toilet or trash.
- Waste from other animals, e.g., chickens or horses, should be contained and composted on site or removed from the property to a composting site by a professional. Containment should be located 100' from any wetland resource area.
- Maintain native vegetation along streams and lakefronts.
- Pool water is only allowed in the drains if it has been dechlorinated. The chlorine level must be less than one ppm. Allow the water to stand for one week prior to draining. Also, make sure the pool is drained in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or erosion.
- Do not discharge pool water in to wetlands. The chlorine can have a negative impact on soil fauna and vegetation.

For more information, please contact the Dunstable Town Hall

Links to Local Stormwater Groups

Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative (Facebook link) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Middlesex-Stormwater-Collaborative/552900708089828> (website) <http://www.nmstormwater.org/>
Northern Middlesex Council of Governments <http://nmcog.org/>