

Stormwater Tips

Follow the stormwater pollution prevention guidelines in this flyer, and train all employees to follow them too. Save this brochure as a useful reference.

Display a "Stormwater Matters" decal in your store or office window to let customers know you care about protecting our water resources. To obtain a decal, call your community stormwater contact listed in this brochure.

Support your local stream team or watershed organization by becoming a member and/or contributing services.

Participate in or sponsor a river cleanup, storm drain marking or stenciling project, or other local environmental effort.

Encourage your regional business association to recognize members that demonstrate a strong commitment to pollution prevention in their business practices.

Spread the word:
"Stormwater Matters!"

Our community is working hard to protect water quality by keeping pollutants out of stormwater. We're also trying to prevent flooding and erosion by managing stormwater flow. Our community has to comply with federal and state stormwater requirements, but municipal officials cannot do it alone. We need your help.



You'll see this stormwater logo frequently as our community, and other cities and towns in Massachusetts, reach out to businesses and citizens for help in keeping stormwater clean.

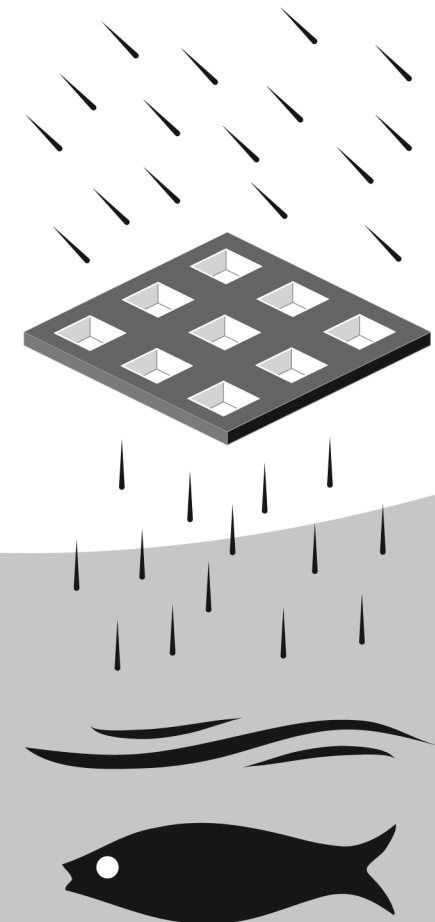
For more information about what our community is doing to clean up stormwater, you can contact:

Robert Lewis,
Water & Sewer Superintendent
Needham Department of Public Works
781-455-7547
rlewis@town.needham.ma.us
www.town.needham.ma.us

This brochure was created by the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council, a non-profit alliance of businesses, municipalities, environmental organizations, and state/federal/regional government agencies. For more information about stormwater, you can also visit the SuAsCo web site at www.stormwatermatters.org.



**SuAsCo
Watershed
Community
Council**



**STORMWATER
matters™**

As a local business owner, you can help keep stormwater clean by following the tips in this brochure.

Every type of business – whether commercial, industrial, construction, or service – has a role to play in following environmentally sound practices for everyday activities.

Stormwater pollution is an important quality-of-life issue in Massachusetts. It can affect all of a community's water resources such as drinking water wells, rivers, ponds, and wetlands.

Local businesses can help keep stormwater clean by following the pollution prevention guidelines in this flyer and by encouraging employees and customers to become partners in water resource protection.

Keeping stormwater clean makes good business sense.

Why is Stormwater a Concern?

Stormwater is the runoff water after it rains or snows. Stormwater becomes polluted with litter, sand, bacteria, and chemicals (such as automobile fluids and deicing salts) as it flows over parking lots and streets and down into storm drains. Many people are surprised to learn that storm drains are not connected to a sewer, but discharge directly to a nearby water body, such as a lake or river, usually without any treatment or cleansing.

Stormwater pollutants can seriously impact the water quality of our streams, ponds and wetlands, harming public health and wildlife habitat. Stormwater pollution can even affect our groundwater, which is used for private and community drinking water wells.

Stormwater pollution can be minimized by practicing good "housekeeping" as described in this brochure, and by not putting any pollutants directly down the storm drain. Cleaner stormwater means cleaner water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and for protecting wildlife.

How Can Businesses Help?

Follow these stormwater pollution prevention guidelines to help keep stormwater clean.

Sweep sidewalks, loading docks and parking lots regularly to collect sand, debris, and litter, and dispose of it in the trash. Provide appropriate covered receptacles for litter and cigarettes.

Maintain your vehicles regularly, ideally in an enclosed garage, to prevent fluid leaks. Wash your company's vehicles at a commercial carwash that recycles wash water.

Reduce the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides whenever possible. If you have a landscaper or management company, ask them to do the same. Never apply lawn chemicals when you expect more than a light rain. Do not over-water your lawn; instead water deeply and less frequently. Never rake leaves or grass clippings into the street or storm drain.

Maintain erosion control practices during construction. Keep soil piles covered and replant bare areas quickly to prevent erosion. Try implementing low impact development techniques. Reduce pavement area where possible and establish vegetative buffers to retain and filter stormwater.

Never put leaking containers into your dumpster. Be sure the dumpster lid is kept closed and locked. Do not allow your dumpster to overflow. Never hose down the inside of your dumpster; instead that job should be done off-site by your collection contractor.

When you apply sand and deicing chemicals to your walkways and pavement, do so responsibly and sweep up as soon as possible.

Inspect your facility for inappropriate plumbing connections. Make sure floor drains, sinks and toilets all connect to a sanitary sewer or septic system.

Clean grease traps often and store the waste for pickup by a registered waste hauler. Never dump cooking grease or oil onto the ground or into a floor drain, toilet, sink or other drain leading to a storm drain, sanitary sewer, or septic system.

When cleaning, use biodegradable chemicals whenever possible. Never discharge mop water or other wash water to a street, storm drain, or sump. If you use a cleaning service, be sure it follows the same good practices.

Create an enclosure and spill containment area for outside material storage. Provide secure, covered storage for all materials, whether inside or outside. Inspect routinely for leaks and spills.

Protect against chemical and petroleum spills and leaks in the area around your business. If a spill occurs, apply absorbents immediately and contact the proper authorities. Never hose down a spill into the street, gutter, or a storm drain.

Aim roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain barrel or rain garden.

If you have storm drains and catch basins on your property for which you are responsible, regularly inspect and clean them in order to maintain their capacity and proper operation.

