

Stormwater and Pollution

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns — washing pollutants from driveways and sidewalks into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution.

You Can Identify a Storm Sewer

by the grated drains found along roadways and within some low-lying and seasonally wet (swale) areas. They collect stormwater from rain and snowmelt and convey it to streams, rivers, and other local waterbodies.

We See It During Every Storm —

automotive fluids creating a colored sheen mixed with rain or snowmelt on parking lots, trash, cigarette butts, animal waste, and misapplied lawn treatments washed into storm drains.



It's the Law!

In January 2012 a new law regarding lawn fertilizers became effective in New York State.

In general, lawn fertilizers...

- Cannot contain phosphorus
- Cannot be applied between December 1 & April 1
- Cannot be applied within 20 ft. of any surface water

Fertilizer landing on sidewalks or paved areas must be immediately cleaned up and applied back on the lawn or containerized.

For detailed information regarding this law, visit “Dishwater Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law” at www.dec.ny.gov.

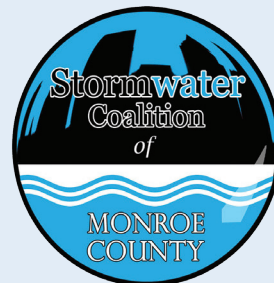
Look For The Zero

Fertilizer bags show a set of numbers representing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, in that order. Make sure the middle number, which indicates phosphorus, is 0.



Lawn & Yard Care...

HOW TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY



For more information about lawn and yard care, visit www.H2OHero.org.

Direct downspouts to a rain barrel or rain garden, and away from driveways or storm drains.

Maintain a natural vegetation buffer zone of trees and shrubs along waterways.

Do not overuse or misapply fertilizers onto sidewalks and paved areas.

Use 0 phosphorus fertilizer and apply in early autumn for best results.

Avoid blanket applications of pesticides by treating only affected areas. Dispose of unused pesticides and fertilizers at Monroe County's ecopark.

Compost or mulch leaves and yard debris.

Mow high; mulch grass clippings.

Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways and sidewalks rather than hosing it into storm drains.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

