

EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP MS4

STORMWATER FAQS

1. What is stormwater and polluted runoff?

Stormwater runoff is much like it sounds: The accumulated precipitation resulting from a storm event that is conveyed over land, rather than absorbed into the ground. Runoff can come from either rain or melted snow and ice. Polluted runoff is often contaminated with litter, oil, chemicals, or other impurities that can be detrimental to the environment.

2. Where does stormwater runoff eventually end up?

Most stormwater runs into small bodies of water like creeks and streams. Eventually, stormwater travels to larger bodies of water, like rivers, lakes, or oceans.

3. What causes stormwater runoff to become polluted?

Stormwater runoff becomes polluted when it picks up pollutants on the ground. Common sources of pollution are weed killers, pesticides, and fertilizers. Stormwater can also cause erosion and sedimentation issues in the receiving waters.

4. Does stormwater pollution only affect small bodies of water, like streams?

Stormwater pollution extends beyond our local streams and creeks. It affects larger bodies of water those streams and creeks flow into, such as the Chesapeake Bay. Sediment and nutrients from upstream watersheds have drastically impaired the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

TIPS TO REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTION

- Wash vehicles in vegetated areas to avoid contaminants from reaching the storm sewer system or local waterways.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly. Never dispose of pet waste in a storm inlet or near a waterway.
- Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks and streets and remove leaves from your gutters, ditches, driveways, sidewalks and streets. Also, do not dump grass clippings along streambanks or drainage ways. Grass clippings contain nutrients that promote algae growth and pollutants that can be harmful to aquatic life.
- Apply lawn fertilizers only when necessary and apply only the amount directed by the manufacturer. Also, avoid fertilizing on rainy or windy days and immediately sweep up and dispose of residual fertilizer granules left on driveways, sidewalks, and roadways. *Be phosphorus conscious!*
- Consider using alternative lawn-care techniques in addition to, or even instead of pesticides. Try pulling weeds by hand, or spot-treating weedy areas instead of the entire yard.



ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Any discharge to the Township's storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, or a PADEP approved non-stormwater discharge, shall be considered an illicit discharge.

Please report cases of suspected illicit discharge to the Township at
717-469-0833 or online at <https://www.easthanovertwpdcpa.org>