

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Be aware that many products commonly used around the home are toxic. While hazardous household chemicals make up only a small percentage of the residential waste stream, it is important they be disposed of properly so potential negative environmental impacts are avoided.



Household chemicals poured down the drain or into a catch basin pose a serious threat of groundwater contamination. Use low-phosphate or phosphate-free detergents, also use water-based products whenever possible.

DO NOT pour household hazardous wastes into sinks, toilets, the ground for storm drains. They must be properly disposed of. The Village never collects hazardous materials, they must be taken to the Town of Brookhaven S.T.O.P (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) facility located at the Town Landfill in Brookhaven. Accepted materials include automotive, lawn/garden, household, & other products such as asbestos, mercury, photographic & swimming pool chemicals. Call 631-451-TOWN (8696) or visit the Town's Website wastemanagement@brookhaven.org for more information.

LITTERING

Litter is one pollutant which can end up in streams. When debris such as cigarette butts, six-pack rings, and other trash is washed into water bodies, it can harm aquatic life such as fish, waterfowl, and turtles. Taking litter home for proper disposal and participating in the Adopt-A-Highway Program are ways every citizen can not only improve the appearance of highways but improve the quality of streams and lakes.

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING

Attractive landscaping adds to the value of any home. To have a lovely yard you've always dreamed of and still be stormwater runoff friendly, consider the following: Reduce the amount of paved area on your property. Planted areas increase filtration and decrease runoff. 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. Install wood decking, bricks or interlocking stones instead of impervious concrete walkways. Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pesticide resistant. Native plants and grasses also require less water. Cultivate plants that discourage pests. Minimize grassed areas, which require high maintenance. Specially designed areas, such as rain gardens and grassy swales planted with native plants, provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftops or paved surfaces can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains. Vegetated filter strips, which are areas of native grass for plants created along roadways or streams, trap the pollutants stormwater pick up as it flows across driveways and streets. Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard.



STORMWATER WEBSITES

www.dec.ny.gov

www.epa.gov

www.cwp.org

www.nrcs.usda.gov



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Keeping Our Waters Clean



**A GUIDE TO HELP
YOU REDUCE
NONPOINT SOURCE
POLLUTION**

What is Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diverse sources. Rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground causes NPS pollution. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. These pollutants include: Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from both agricultural lands and residential areas; Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban areas; Sediment from poorly managed

construction sites, agricultural and forest lands, and eroding stream banks; Bacteria and nutrients from agriculture, pet wastes, and poorly maintained septic systems. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NPS pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems in the nation. The effects of non-specific waters vary and may not always be fully quantified. However, it is known that these pollutants have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation activities, fisheries, and wildlife.

Stormwater regulations in the Village of Patchogue. To comply with federal regulations, the Village is required to implement a stormwater management program. These requirements include: Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement, Illicit Discharge and Elimination, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff and Control, Post-construction Stormwater Management and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping.



Sewer System VS Storm Water Drain

Sewer Systems and Storm Water Drains are two different things. The water that goes down a sink or toilet flows to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and filtered. Water that flows down driveways and streets into a gutter is not treated and goes into a storm drain that flows directly to a lake, river or the ocean.



Stormwater Runoff Pollution Solutions

SEPTIC SYSTEMS/CESSPOOLS

While many homes in the Village of Patchogue are hooked into our sanitary sewer system, others still rely on a septic system or cesspool. Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems/cesspool release harmful nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby water bodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns. Have your system inspected every three years and pump your tank as necessary (every three years to five years is recommended). Don't divert storm drains for basement pumps into septic systems/cesspools. Don't use septic system/cesspool additives. There is no scientific evidence that biological and chemical additives aid or accelerate decomposition in septic tanks/cesspools, and some additives may be harmful and contaminate ground water. Don't flush household chemicals or prescription drugs into the septic system.

SWIMMING POOL AND SPA

Drain your pool only after a test kit does not detect chlorine levels. Drain your pool or spa directing the water to a vegetated section of your lawn. **DO NOT** drain into the street. Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to storm water runoff.



LAWN AND GARDEN CARE

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and cause pollution to local waters. In addition, yard waste clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute harmful nutrients and organic matter to local waters. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When their use is necessary, apply these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain, otherwise, chemicals will be washed away by stormwater runoff. When your lawn needs watering use slow-watering devices such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses, which reduce runoff and are 20% more effective than sprinklers. Water your lawn and garden during the cooler times of the day and don't let water run off into the storm drain. Sweep up and bag yard debris rather than hosing down areas.



PET WASTE

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess harmful nutrients in local waters. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies. When walking your pet remember to pick up waste and dispose of it properly. Section 143-3B of the Village Code, nicknamed the "Pooper Scooper Law," required residents to clean up after their dogs if they curb them or use any land other than their own without the express permission of the landowner. Flushing pet waste down the toilet is the best disposal method.



ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-Waste)

Every day, hundreds of computers, cell phones, pagers and other types of electronic or e-waste, as they are called, become obsolete. Once just a small segment of the total waste stream, e-waste has assumed major proportions. Not only do e-waste items have a low level of biodegradability, they contain materials that are highly toxic when released into the environment. The Village does pick up electronics, but you can also bring them to the Town of Brookhaven landfill at no fee for recycling. At the landfill, an e-waste recycling company will provide safe processing & recycling of these items. Other options include visiting sharetechnology.com or ebay.com/rethink to find electronic drop off locations nearest you.