

Drains to Streams, Ponds, and Lakes

Storm drains often lead directly to streams, ponds, and lakes. When the stormwater runoff that enters these storm drains contains contaminants it can easily pollute our water resources.

Stormwater runoff has a major effect on surface water pollution. Contaminates that may be picked up by runoff include oil, gas, fertilizer, sediment, pet waste, car wash water, etc. You can help prevent polluted runoff by making some of the simple changes listed below:

- Properly dispose of used motor oil
- Fix automotive leaks promptly
- Don't top off while pumping gas
- Don't fertilize before it rains
- Properly dispose of pet waste
- Put trash in its place

A good rule of thumb is *"If you don't drink it, don't dump it!"*

Helpful Definitions

Stormwater Runoff- Rain or snow melt that falls on impervious surfaces and can pick up contaminants as it travels to natural or artificial drainage systems or water bodies.

Illicit Discharge- Any discharge or seepage to the stormwater drainage system that is not composed entirely of stormwater and/or uncontaminated ground water.

Illicit Connection- A physical connection to a stormwater drainage system that primarily conveys illicit discharges into the system and/or is not authorized or permitted by the local authority.

Point Source- An outfall from a drainage system that discharges into waters of the state or other public bodies of water.

Stormwater Solutions

The EPA has mandated a number of permit programs administered by the DEEP to deal with stormwater pollution. To comply with the new mandates Killingly has developed a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP). This plan will improve the way the Town handles storm water in an effort to reduce pollution and eliminate illicit discharges.

The Town is looking to improve the quality of stormwater runoff by maintaining a proper road sweeping and catch basin cleaning schedule. Other, more complex techniques include installing new stormwater management structures, such as rain gardens. As the Town looks to pay closer attention to our stormwater management practices, we encourage our citizens to educate themselves and do the same.

**Remember,
ONLY RAIN IN
THE DRAIN!!**



Learn More

For additional information on efforts to protect our lakes and streams, and/or to find more ways to make a difference, visit our website at:

www.killinglyct.gov

Keyword:

Stormwater Management



**Stormwater
Management**

Killingly, CT

**Clean Yards and
Streets Make
Cleaner Waters!**

Contaminates on paved surfaces and yards can pollute fresh water resources. Killingly has developed a plan to help prevent stormwater pollution as part of compliance with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit (Ms4). By learning how easy it is to make a difference, citizens can help protect our streams, ponds, and lakes.

Ways that We Can Make a Difference!!

Clean Up Pet Waste

As pet waste breaks down it releases harmful bacteria that can make its way to our waterways in the form of pollution. Most people think to clean up after their pets in public places, but it's important to clean up in your own yard as well.

Proper Car Care

Keeping your car tuned and leaks fixed helps your car run better and will also reduce pollutants that enter the environment from paved travel ways and parking areas. While performing maintenance on your vehicle, be sure to



immediately soak up any spills of antifreeze, de-icer, gas, motor oil, or any other automotive fluids immediately. Washing your car on grass or gravel will help keep the dirty water from running down the street and into the storm drains. Car wash facilities that provide water treatments or water recycling are also a good option.

RV and Travel Trailer Waste

It's important to know the location of a proper dump station for RVs and travel trailers.

Dumping sewage waste on the ground or in a storm drain directly pollutes our waterways and is a danger to public and environmental health.



Best Management Landscaping Practices for Home Owners

The way we landscape and maintain our yards can have a large impact on the amount and quality of runoff generated from our properties. Rain gardens provide an alternative to grass as vegetative ground cover. Do not spread fertilizer before rain is forecast; rain will wash the fertilizer out of the lawn and into the waterways. Using slow-release, low-phosphorus fertilizers that do not require watering is recommended. Mulching grass clippings recycles the nutrients in the clippings back into the lawn as a natural fertilizer.



Helpful Home Maintenance Strategies

Caring for your septic system can help prevent contaminants from entering our waterways. Have an accurate map to the location of your septic system and have your septic tank pumped regularly. Store household chemicals that are considered hazardous in safe places where they cannot spill easily. When you no longer have a need for these chemicals, check with the Town to see when the next hazardous waste collection day is planned, so you can dispose of them properly. Never dump them down the drain!

Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

Taking these small steps will make a huge difference in reducing the pollution that can enter our streams, ponds, and lakes from the storm drain system.



Report Suspicious Connections or Dumping, Also Known as Illicit Discharge

Your involvement in reporting sources of pollution witnessed along the roadside, or in lots and driveways, will help protect the quality of our streams, ponds, and lakes, along with public health. Things to report include:



- Dumping or evidence of waste/oil or other vehicle fluids.
- Dry weather flow, a storm drain that shows signs of intermittent flow 72 hours after any precipitation.
- Suds different from natural suds, created from soaps or other chemicals. These can be very harmful to aquatic life.
- Sewage, as it contains high amounts of harmful bacteria due to failing septic systems, improper connections, or travel trailer dumping.
- Improper connections outletting into drains and ditches.

Reports can be made to the Planning and Development Office at the Killingly Town Hall: 860-779-5311



www.killinglyct.gov