

WE ALL LIVE ON WATERFRONT PROPERTY

The storm drain near your home leads directly to the nearest pond, lake, stream or river.



A HAVERHILL CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO
PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

Your role in preventing polluted stormwater runoff

As stormwater flows over our driveways, lawns, sidewalks, parking lots, and other surfaces, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. This water then flows into storm drains, then flows to the nearest pond, lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters our storm drain system is discharged untreated into Haverhill's water bodies, which we use for swimming, fishing, and in some cases, as a supply for drinking water.

Polluted runoff is our community's greatest threat to clean water.

This brochure contains a list of household habits that Haverhill residents should follow to help protect our city's water bodies. By practicing these habits, we can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids out of stormwater—and out of our ponds, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers. Together, we can protect our waters from polluted stormwater runoff.



Most stormwater pollution is caused by the actions of uninformed people. Share what you know with your family, friends & neighbors and help protect our rivers and ponds.

10 HOUSEHOLD HABITS FOR CLEAN WATER

BE STORMWATER SMART – HELP PROTECT HAVERHILL'S WATER BODIES



1 **Never dump anything into storm drains**

Dispose of all chemicals and trash properly. Contact the City's Wastewater Division at 978-374-2382 to find out where to take leftover paint, pesticides, cleaners and other hazardous household materials. Never pour anything into a storm drain. Remember, only rain down the drain!

2 **Don't litter**

Cigarette butts, plastic wrappers, and other trash that washes down storm drains goes to our waters, where it can harm or kill wildlife. Some litter, such as plastics, breaks down so slowly that it can remain in our ponds, lakes or rivers for many years.

3 **Always clean up after your pets**

Scoop up and dispose of pet waste either in the toilet or in a sealed bag in the trash. Never toss it into a storm drain. Pet waste is a major source of bacteria in our local waters.

4 **Wash your car at a commercial car wash, or unpaved surface**

Washing your car on gravel or other unpaved surface allows the water and soap to be absorbed and filtered, rather than running off into the street's storm drains. Better yet, use one of our area's local, commercial car wash facilities, most of which treat the water and then recycle it.

5 **Repair fluid leaks from your car**

Check your vehicle for fluid leaks, and repair them as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like cat litter or sand. Recycle used motor oil (5 gallon limit) at the Haverhill Recycling Center, 500 Primrose St, on the last Saturday of every month, 9am-1pm.

6 **Limit sand and salt**

When using sand and salt on your driveway and walkways during winter months, you shouldn't compromise your safety--but don't overdo it. Salt can contaminate your drinking water supply, and sand can fill in streams and rivers, destroying fish habitat and causing drainage problems. After the snow melts, sweep up salt & sand on your walkways, to prevent it from washing into the storm drains.

7 **Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use**

All pesticides, even natural ones, are poisons. These poisons will readily dissolve in water, run into the storm drain and may be toxic to fish, aquatic plants, and other wildlife.

8 **Use less fertilizer on your lawn**

By using less fertilizer, you'll reduce pollution and still keep your lawn green and healthy. Have your soil tested at a local nursery. Many lawns need as little as half the amount of fertilizer indicated on the packaging. To prevent fertilizer washing into storm drains, avoid fertilizing before a heavy rain.

9 **Compost yard waste**

Don't sweep leaves or grass clippings into the street. Grass clippings, leaves, and yard trimmings can block storm drains. When washed into storm drains, they make their way to local waters, where they use up oxygen for fish and other aquatic life. Instead, compost grass clippings and leaves.

10 **Practice stormwater-friendly landscaping**

Reduce the amount of paved area around your home to increase infiltration and reduce runoff. Consider directing downspouts onto lawns, instead of paved surfaces, to further reduce runoff. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To report a spill any time **City of Haverhill Emergency Dispatch: 978-373-1212**

To report suspicious stormwater-related activities **Stormwater Hotline: 978-374-2334**

For additional stormwater information **Stormwater Program Coordinator: 978-374-2383**

or visit www.haverhillma.gov/departments/stormwater

Stormwater Management

The City of Haverhill strives to maintain a strong, effective stormwater program that will aid in protecting properties and keep a safe, healthy environment for the city's residents. To remain effective, stormwater infrastructure needs to be maintained and updated, just like the city's roads, water lines and sewer lines.

Historically, stormwater management has focused primarily on flood control. But today's state and federal regulations require a more stringent, comprehensive approach to stormwater management—one that addresses both water quality and water quantity. This includes new federally mandated (but unfunded) responsibilities to manage the City's drainage system more closely, study the contents of stormwater runoff, seek and eliminate illicit discharges and illegal dumping, and educate the public about ways to reduce stormwater pollution and protect our community's waters.

To aid the City of Haverhill in meeting these stormwater management requirements, the City is exploring the possibility of establishing a Stormwater Utility. A Stormwater Utility is similar to a water or sewer utility, providing a dependable financial resource for funding continued operation, maintenance, construction (or reconstruction) of a municipality's stormwater-related infrastructure, such as culverts, storm drains, pipes, catch basins, ditches, curbs, gutters and detention ponds. A Stormwater Utility can also be used as a fund to pay for costs a municipality must bear for stormwater management programs.



City of Haverhill Wastewater Department

STORMWATER PROGRAM

40 South Porter Street,

Haverhill, MA 01835

978-374-2383

www.haverhillma.gov/departments/stormwater