What's the difference? Sanitary Sewer vs. Storm Drain

The water that drains down a sink or toilet in a home or business flows to the sanitary sewer and associated wastewater treatment plant or individual septic disposal system for treatment.

A storm drain system, on the other hand, is designated to carry rainwater from streets and driveways to prevent flooding. The stormwater may not receive any treatment. It flows directly into area streams, rivers, and lakes.

Unfortunately, as rainfall flows over the ground it picks up debris and pollutants and deposit them into our water bodies. Some of the pollutants that are commonly transported in the storm drain system include:

- Sediments
- Road Salt
- Fertilizers and Pesticides
- Metals
- Detergents
- Trash and Debris
- Oil and Grease
- Bacteria and Viruses



To Report Illegal Dumping or Discharges:

Call your local Highway Department

For Spill Emergencies:

Call your local Fire Department

For Soil Testing Prior to Applying Fertilizers:

Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension-Dutchess County: 845-677-8223 x 1 | 5

For Stormwater Pollution Prevention Employee Training:

Call Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District

For more information, check out these websites:

Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District: www.dutchessswcd.org

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation: Division of Water Stormwater page: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm

US Environmental Protection Agency: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
Polluted Runoff — Nonpoint Source Pollution: www.epa.gov/nps

US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service: Backyard Conservation: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard

Center for Watershed Protection: www.cwp.org



Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District 2715 Route 44, Suite 3 Millbrook, New York 12545

> Phone: 845-677-8011 x3 Fax: 845-677-8354

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Preventing Stormwater Pollution



Tips for Commercial and Industrial Businesses If your business is in one of the Dutchess County municipalities listed below, the community you work in has been designated a regulated MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) under the Phase II Stormwater Regulations.

City of Beacon Village of Pawling Town of Beekman Town of Pleasant Town of East Fishkill Valley Town of Fishkill City of Poughkeepsie Village of Fishkill Town of Poughkeepsie Town of Hyde Park Town of Wappinger Town of LaGrange Village of Wappingers Falls Town of Pawling

This means that the municipality in which you work needs a permit under the State-wide Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) in order to discharge stormwater. Each MS4 community needs help from each resident and business to minimize the impacts on stormwater runoff and thus your area streams, lakes, and rivers.

How You Can Help

The following are simple, but effective, things you can do at your workplace to protect and improve the water quality of our streams, lakes, and rivers through stormwater pollution prevention.

GENERAL

- ⇒ Regularly sweep and collect debris around your site, do <u>not</u> hose down sidewalks or parking lots
- ⇒ Train employees to recognize the impact they have on water quality
- ⇒ **NEVER** dump anything down a storm drain
- ⇒ Report any illegal dumping to a storm drain—call your local Highway Department

LANDSCAPING

- Only irrigate during <u>early morning</u> to avoid evaporation (it's also better for your plants)
- ⇒ Aim sprinklers to avoid watering non-target areas
- ⇒ Time sprinklers to avoid over watering and causing runoff onto paved areas
- ⇒ Get your soil tested prior to applying fertilizers Save money by using only what's needed
- ⇒ Minimize pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer use. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions

OUTDOOR MATERIAL STORAGE

- Store all potential pollutants indoors or under a covered area or secure tarp
- ⇒ Clean up all spills immediately! Use dry absorbents as necessary and dispose of waste materials properly. Protect the storm drains closest to the spill
- ⇒ Keep lids on all storage containers
- ⇒ Label all material storage containers
- ⇒ Regularly sweep and clean all outdoor storage areas to remove dirt and debris

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- ⇒ Keep the ground around all outdoor garbage and dumpster areas free of trash, sediment, and debris
- ⇒ Close the lids on dumpsters and trash cans after every use
- ⇒ Do <u>not</u> use dumpsters for liquid wastes. They are rarely leak-proof
- ⇒ Clean up all spills immediately!

GENERAL CLEANING

- \Rightarrow Minimize the use of cleaning agents
- ⇒ Switch to more environmentally friendly cleaning products
- ⇒ Dispose of waste wash water to sanitary sewer not to storm drains

VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- ⇒ Perform all vehicle maintenance indoors when possible. If not, use a drop cloth or tarp
- ⇒ Use drip-pans to collect leaking fluids
- ⇒ Clean up all spills immediately! Use dry absorbents as necessary and dispose of waste materials properly

VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT WASHING

- ⇒ Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash when possible (their wastewater drains to the sanitary sewer)
- ⇒ If you must wash onsite, wash vehicle over a pervious (absorbent) area such as dirt, gravel or grass to prevent runoff
- ⇒ Minimize the use of soaps and water while washing. Use biodegradable soaps

ROOF RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

- ⇒ Direct gutter downspouts to a vegetated or grassed area instead of pavement
- \Rightarrow Do <u>not</u> store anything on your roof

CONSTRUCTION

- ⇒ Minimize the amount of exposed soil
- ⇒ Cover construction material stockpiles
- ⇒ Use silt fence around perimeter of site to capture any sediment washed away
- ⇒ Store materials where not exposed to rain.
 Use a secured tarp as necessary

Preventing Pollution Is Good Public Relations

Let your customers know what you're doing to minimize stormwater pollution. It shows them that you're a good neighbor. Encourage your customers and other businesses to do the same.