

## IT AFFECTS US ALL

Storm water affects us all! Unlike a septic system or sanitary sewer system, storm drains are not designed to treat water. Water entering and within the system is discharged directly to Windham's local waterbodies.

Pollution can be harmful to aquatic habitat, native organisms, and humans. Therefore, it is important to remain conscious about daily impacts we may have on local waterbodies by implementing best practices.

### Benefits of on-site filtration:

- Runoff receives treatment to help filter out chemicals, bacteria, and debris
- Helps preserve water quality, aquatic habitats, and organisms
- Slows down runoff, reducing erosion

### Storm water management techniques:

- Direct water to more permeable areas
- Detain water to allow for infiltration
- Collect rainwater in barrels to use for landscaping
- Install pervious walkways



Scan for additional  
management techniques:

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TOWN OF WINDHAM

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### We need your help!

The Town of Windham is committed to improving the water quality throughout Town, but we can't do it alone. The little things matter! Even the smallest changes in our behaviors and actions can lead to BIG changes in water our water quality; helping us preserve our natural resources for many years to come!

### Storm Water Management Committee

Additional resources and  
educational materials:



### Contact Us

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**Town of Windham**

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# STORM WATER GUIDE

for residents!



# STORM WATER AROUND YOUR HOME

## Pet Waste

Runoff will carry any pet waste left on the ground into local waterbodies, causing harmful bacteria such as E. coli to contaminate the water. Bacteria such as this make our waterbodies unsafe for recreational activities and uninhabitable for native aquatic organisms.

To reduce pet waste pollution:

- **ALWAYS** pick up and remove pet waste
- Dispose of all pet waste in the garbage
- Wash your hands after handling pet waste
- Do **NOT** compost pet waste

Take the pledge to  
Scoop the Poop:



## Lawn Care

Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can get washed or blown into waterways which can lead to algal blooms and excessive growth of invasive species. Algal blooms deplete the amount of oxygen in the water which can cause naturally occurring species to die off.

## Properties Within the Watershed Protection Overlay District (WPOD)

- May **NOT** apply fertilizers or pesticides within 200' of the prevailing high water mark of any public waterbody or their tributaries or wetlands
- All other areas within the District may only use low phosphate/slow release nitrogen fertilizers

## Properties Outside of the WPOD

Minimize impacts of fertilizer by doing the following:

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for application; **ONLY** use what is needed
- Avoid application in mid-summer or rainy season
- Avoid over watering treated areas

## Vehicle Maintenance

Runoff from washing a vehicle on a paved surface will enter the nearest catch basin or drainage ditch and carry the contaminants into nearby waterbodies.

To minimize pollution from vehicle upkeep:

- Wash vehicles on a lawn or on gravel to aid in filtering pollutants
- If washing a vehicle on pavement, direct flow toward grass and/or other permeable surfaces
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free, and water-based soaps
- Minimize water usage to minimize runoff
- Work on vehicles in a covered area to prevent harmful chemicals from contaminating runoff
- Store all oils, solutions, etc. in covered areas



## Pool Maintenance

Improperly disposing of pool water could be harmful to the surrounding environments.

To minimize potential contamination of local waterbodies:

- Dechlorinate the water and neutralize the pH before draining (neutral pH = 7)
- Drain pools slowly on to a vegetated area to allow for the soil to naturally filter the water
- Do **NOT** discharge pool water into any surface water, wetlands, or storm drains

## Ice Prevention

Did you know that salt is a large contributor of chloride contamination in local waterbodies?

To minimize contaminated runoff from leaving your property:

- Plow, shovel, or use a snow blower to remove snow and ice instead of de-icing materials
- If de-icing materials are necessary, choose the correct chemical type and proper application amount to prevent overuse

## Septic Systems

Septic systems must be regularly maintained to prevent septic and harmful bacteria such as E. coli from entering the environment and local waterbodies.

To minimize the risk of a septic leak:

- Septic tanks should be inspected or pumped **every 3-5 years**; cleaning or replacing the effluent filter each time
  - more frequently if recommended by an inspector
- Do **NOT** flush feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, flushable wipes, or other like products commonly advertised as "flushable"
- **ONLY** flush human waste and toilet paper
- Do **NOT** dispose of cooking grease, fats, oils, paints, solvents, or like products in the sink or toilet
- Conserve water to avoid overloading the system:
  - Fix any water leaks in the home **ASAP**
  - Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when full
  - Space out activities that require high water usage such as taking a shower, doing laundry, washing dishes, filling a pool, etc.
- Avoid parking/driving vehicles on the septic system
- Avoid planting near the drain field to prevent unnecessary damage to the system due to roots

