

# Stormwater Regulations

## A GUIDE TO HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEANER WATER

Pollution on the ground, in streets & parking lots, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides on lawns, are carried by rainwater into storm drains. From there they enter our streams, lakes, groundwater and eventually into bays and oceans. These pollutants not only foul our recreational waters, but also find their way into our drinking water supplies.

Polluted runoff is one of the largest contributors to the degradation of our streams, etc. and remains one of the greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that is why we are asking you to help do something about it. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, herbicides, detergents, animal waste, leaves and grass clippings all contribute to pollute waterways and by sharing a portion of the responsibility and making small meaningful changes in our daily lives, we can help keep these pollutants out of stormwater runoff.

As part of the new Federal Phase II, stormwater regulations and New Jersey's initiative to help clean-up its water, the Borough of Interlaken and other public agencies have adopted regulations to control pollution in stormwater. Part of the regulations is to adopt ordinances to prohibit various activities that can add to stormwater pollution.

As residents of New Jersey, it is important to remember these easy things you can do to help contribute to restoring the health of our streams.

### 1. LIMIT YOUR USE OF FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply a fertilizer if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other vegetation that require little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizer and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply them.

## **2. PROPERLY USE AND DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS**

- Hazardous products include household & commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down the storm drain. Storm drains are connected to local water bodies and the water is not treated.
- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle motor oil
- If you spill, leak and/or discharge any hazardous waste, use dry clean-up methods such as cat litter or products specifically designed for this purpose.

## **3. CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET**

- The Borough has a ordinance regarding pet waste. An example requires pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or private property.
- Make sure you know the ordinance requirements and comply with them.
- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up waste.
- Dispose of wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet
- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain

## **4. DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE**

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks or geese, anywhere within the Borough

## **5. DO NOT LITTER**

- Place litter in closed trash receptacles.
- Place recyclables in a closed, locking container.
- Pick up cans, bottles, etc. that may spill out of the recycle bin.
- Participate in community group cleanups.

## **6. DISPOSE OF YARD WASTE PROPERLY**

- Keep leaves and grass out of the street & do not put leaves out until 7 days prior to pick up. Do not put leaves closer than 10' from drainage inlet.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use mulching mower that recycles grass clipping into the lawn.

## **7. KEEP POLLUTION OUT OF STORM DRAINS**

- Municipalities and other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that the storm drains are connected to local water bodies.
- Do not let sewage or other waste flow into a stormwater system

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published The Phase II Stormwater Rules in December 1999, and the NJDEP has adopted the rules and developed The Municipal Stormwater Regulations Program to implement these rules. The NJDEP has issued the Borough a permit, and we have already implemented a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. The program includes modifying existing stormwater inlets to prevent floatables from entering the waterways, outfall mapping, local public education, illicit connection removals and improper disposal of waste to name a few. The Borough has also adopted several ordinances to comply with the new stormwater regulations.

[www.njbeaches.org](http://www.njbeaches.org) – An interactive website and map that will show real-time status of monitored beaches.