

POLLUTION PREVENTION FOR RESIDENTS

Storm drains, also known as catch basins, are the entryway to the stormwater system beneath our local streets. The stormwater system for the Town of Adams collects rain water and snowmelt from rooftops and pavement and discharges this runoff, without treatment, into the nearest receiving water (local streams and the Hoosic River). As stormwater runs over the ground, it picks up pollutants and debris that have been carelessly or illegally deposited onto our streets or directly into the storm drains. These pollutants include used motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, cleaning agents, pesticides or fertilizers, and paint. Debris commonly found in storm drains include pet waste, cigarette butts, yard clippings and sand. In addition, car washing and lawn watering can also contribute to pollution of the waterways. **Here are some things you can do to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drains:**

- Never pour any hazardous materials into a storm drain. This includes used motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, cleaning agents, pesticides, fertilizers and paint. For proper disposal of these items, go to the Town of Adams' website or call 413-743-8208.
- Keep sidewalks and driveways clear of litter and sand and remove these materials to prevent them from being carried into storm drains by stormwater runoff or snowmelt. Dispose of these materials in the trash.
- Ideally, leaf litter and yard clippings should be mowed to mulch lawn areas. If collected, leaves and clippings should be composted or placed out for pickup during scheduled times by the Adams Department of Public Works.
- Use landscaping fertilizers and pesticides sparingly or not at all. Landscaping chemicals should not be applied when rain is forecasted.
- To clean up outdoor spills, use dry methods such as sweeping, applying absorbent towels or spreading cat litter. If not hazardous, place the material in the trash. If hazardous, dispose of the material at the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District's Special Collection Events throughout the year (contact: 413-743-8208). **Never** hose down a spill into the storm drain.
- If you must hose down an area, direct the runoff towards a grassy landscaped area. Detergents and chemical cleaners should not be used to wash sidewalks or driveways.
- If you see a storm drain that is clogged with debris, report it to DPW for cleaning (413-743-8300 x172).
- Reduce exposure to household chemicals by using non-toxic alternative cleaners.

Report Illegal Dumping

The dumping of **any** material into a storm drain is illegal and carries a fine for every day of violation! If you observe someone dumping into a storm drain, report it immediately to DPW at 413-743-8300 x172.