

SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION



Easy Things You Can Do Every Day to Protect Our Water

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that flows from rooftops, paved areas and lawns that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into waterways, like streams, ponds, lakes, and rivers.

As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, fertilizers, oil and grease, pesticides, litter and other potential pollutants. This pollution can enter groundwater, streams, lakes, ponds, and rivers and can even affect the quality of our drinking water.

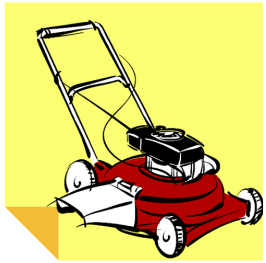
Increase in impervious surfaces cause more stormwater runoff. Because less water is soaking in, flooding can become more frequent and more destructive.

The Town of Cortlandt is a regulated community and has enacted updated Town ordinances governing stormwater. To learn more, visit our website at: www.townofcortlandt.com/stormwater

What can you do to help with Stormwater issue?

Lawn Care:

Most lawns tested in Westchester County DO NOT need more phosphorus. If you must fertilize, use phosphorus-free fertilizer (where the middle number on the bag is zero). Excess fertilizer flows into streams, lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, where it can degrade drinking water, lead to algae and plant growth and contribute to fish kills. Don't fertilize when rain is expected. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to recycle nutrients. More information on lawn care is available in the Town of Cortlandt Recycling brochure.



Care for your Car:

Little drops of oil and gas add up. One pint of oil can cause an oil slick the size of a football field. Take used motor oil to gas stations. NEVER pour it down the drain. Take other fluids to approved recycling locations. Use saw dust or kitty litter to clean up leaks and spills in your driveway. Wash your car on your lawn if possible to capture runoff.



Septic System Maintenance:

Failing septic systems can contaminate groundwater, drinking water and surface flows. Most of the Town of Cortlandt is serviced by individual septic systems. Your septic system should be pumped and inspected regularly. Generally, septic tanks should be cleaned out every 3-5 years, depending on the size of the tank. Do not pour chemicals, paints, fats, or excess medications down your pipes. Driving on or parking on septic field may damage them.



Scoop the Poop:

Please pick up after your dog or cat. It doesn't matter the size of the animal- all animal waste has an impact. Animal waste is easily carried by runoff, washing off roads and lawns. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and phosphorus that can promote the growth of weeds and algae.

