

Stormwater runoff in the City of Bethlehem area is largely transported along streets and curbs, open channels, and other conveyances, directly to retention/infiltration basins, city parks, washes, and nearby canals.

Flowing stormwater will pick up dirt, debris, chemicals, trash, oil, grease and any other pollutants. This water generally re-enters the water cycle without being treated. So, while the City of Bethlehem area on average receives 50 inches rainfall a year, stormwater quality is a serious concern. Polluted runoff is the nations greatest threat to clean water.

The practice of healthy household habits by homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of our stormwater.



## **STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION BEGINS WITH YOU!**



## **STORMWATER OUTREACH FOR GENERAL PUBLIC**



**For more information, visit:**

**Public Works – Stormwater**  
<https://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Public-Works/Stormwater>



## About Stormwater

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals, and any other pollutant as it flows over roads and lawns.

In the City of Bethlehem, stormwater runoff does not go to water treatment plant before entering our recreational or drinking waters. It is transported by drains, streets, gutters, curbs, and open channels directly into retention/infiltration basins, parks, washes, and canals.

## Common Stormwater Pollutants

- Sediments (dirt)
- Motor Oil, Fuel, Grease, & other Fluids
- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Heavy Metals,
- Yard Waste (leaves and grass)
- Pet Waste
- Paints and Solvents
- Litter

## How Can You Help?

### Your Yard

- Select native plants that are drought tolerant and pest resistant.
- Don't over water.
- Use lawn products sparingly and follow manufacturer's application instructions.
- Never apply fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides just before, during, or immediate after a storm.
- Sweep up landscape waste with a broom, instead of using a hose or blower.
- Control loose dirt to prevent soils from washing into the storm drain.
- Properly dispose of pool water, do not backwash or drain your pool into the street.



### Your Vehicle

- Wash your vehicle at commercial car wash to prevent dirty, soapy water from entering the storm drain.
- Keep your vehicle "leak free". Clean up any leaks with absorbent and dispose of it properly.
- Recycle used motor oil and antifreeze at participating auto parts stores or service facilities.



### Your Home or Business

- Purchase non-toxic products.
- Store home maintenance products inside or under cover
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste.

### Your pets

- Pet waste can be a source of pollution in water bodies and retention basins.
- Collect waste when walking your pet.