

WATERTOWN RAIN DRAIN PAIN

Where does the rain go?

Have you ever wondered where all the water goes when it rains or after the snow melts? Some of it seeps into the ground or evaporates, but most of it runs off over the land and into our catch basins and storm drains.

**Nearly all Watertown's storm drains
empty into the Charles River.
Not to a treatment plant.**

The runoff water from rain and snow is called “stormwater.” Stormwater can pick up litter, leaves, sand, bacteria, oil and other chemicals as it flows over the land, washing these pollutants into our streams, ponds, river, and wetlands.



What you do in your yard or on your property affects the health of our neighborhoods and everyone downstream. We all need clean water for drinking and for protecting wildlife. And we all want clean water for swimming, fishing, and boating.

Flip this — the other side shows
how to prevent rain drain pain.



Department of Public Works
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WatertownDPW.org

Stormwater Advisory Committee

WatertownStormwater.org

FLIP



Illicit Discharges — What A Pain!

Anything put into the drainage system that is not 100% stormwater is an illicit discharge. Examples:

- car wash wastewater
- gas and motor oil
- kitchen grease/oil
- household cleaners
- paints
- pesticides
- solvents
- vehicle spills
- weed killers
- pet waste



These pollutants in the drains cause serious health and water quality problems.

NEVER put **ANYTHING** down a storm drain!
Add to the solution, not to the pollution.

**Leaves don't
belong in the
stormdrain**



It may be little



...but it's still litter.

More ways you can help:

- Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, tires & batteries.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on the lawn so water can seep into the soil.
- Cover soil piles with tarps; replant bare areas.
- Go easy on fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides.
- Clean up spills immediately — use kitty litter or sawdust to absorb the spill, then sweep up and dispose in your trash.
- Don't block storm drains with refuse or debris.
- Remove debris from stormdrain grates near your home.
- Pick up after your pet and dispose of droppings in the trash.
- And please, **don't let your leaves and grass clippings wash into the drains.**