



East Lansdowne Borough Residential Stormwater Management

Restoring Rain's Reputation: What Everyone Can Do To Help!

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water runoff from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called stormwater runoff.

WHY IS STORMWATER "Good Rain Gone Wrong?"

Stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. Stormwater travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up stormwater systems. It eventually flows directly to a lake, river, stream, wetland, or coastal water. All of the pollutants stormwater carries along the way empty into our waters, too, because stormwater does not get treated.

This is why your assistance is needed to improve local water quality.

WHAT RESIDENTS CAN HELP WATCH FOR:

- Sediment leaving a construction site in stormwater.
- Spills (chemical, gas, oil)
- Illegal dumping activity into streams or storm sewers (please call 911 first).
- Dry weather flow from outfall pipes to streams (72 hours or more after a rain storm)

To report spills, dumping or discharges of pollutants into the street, stormwater system or streams, call 911.

For more information about stormwater management, go to the stormwater section of the Borough's website

(www.eastlansdowne.org) or to the PA Department of Environmental Protection's website: www.depweb.state.pa.us

10 Ways To Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:

- Conserve Water by stopping faucet drips
- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Pick up after your pet
- Sweep up driveways and sidewalks
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Plant gardens in bare spots
- Direct rooftop runoff to grass or gardens
- Check cars for leaks
- Wash cars at the car wash
- Compost your yard and organic wastes

THINGS TO HELP LIMIT STORMWATER RUNOFF VOLUME

Install a Rain Garden

A rain garden is a planted shallow depression designed to catch and filter rainfall runoff. The garden captures rain from a downspout or a driveway. The water sinks into the ground, aided by deep rooted plants that like wet and dry conditions. A residential rain garden should dry out between rains and should only hold water for approximately 24 hours. This timeframe prevents standing water that could create mosquito habitat.



Install a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are installed at the bottom of your down-spouts and catch the rain water that comes off the roof. You can then reuse that water to water your garden or yard. Please try to empty your rain barrel between rain events to maximize the effectiveness of the rain barrel. Rain barrels are available at local hardware and home improvement stores.



Plant Trees and Shrubs

Planting trees, shrubs and/or plants that have a deep root structure help stormwater infiltrate into the ground. They also catch rain water on their leaves and branches which helps to reduce the amount of run-off during a storm.



STORM DRAIN MARKERS

We are looking for volunteers to stencil storm drain markers on the Borough's storm drains. These markers educate and discourage anyone who may be looking to dump into the storm drain. If you know of a community or youth group or individuals who might be interested in undertaking this public service project, please contact the Borough office at 610-623-7131.



East Lansdowne Borough maintains and improves the public drainage system for the protection of our community and the

East Lansdowne Borough

Citizen Water Quality Hotline: 911

REPORT AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE BY CALLING 911

Although our local waterways may have a pollution source that's obvious to you, the Borough may not know about it, so please report it!

One of the largest sources of water pollution is illegal discharge of pollutants into the Borough's storm drain system.

Pollutants typically found in illicit discharges include:

- Pathogens,
- Toxic chemicals
- Raw sewage
- Heavy metals
- Oil & grease
- Soap suds.

(You'll see storm drains along streets and in parking lots – they are usually square openings covered by a metal grate.) Any discharge to this system other than stormwater is considered "illicit." Illicit discharges can happen directly or indirectly and may or may not be intentional.

Pollutants that enter the stormwater drain system are NOT treated. They are discharged directly to our creeks, streams, and eventually can end up in our oceans. When these pollutants reach a body of water, they degrade the quality of the water and may cause drinking water restrictions, loss of aquatic life and wildlife, beach closures, and restrictions on fish and shellfish harvesting.

Some examples include:

- Sanitary sewer main or lateral pipe that is connected to the storm sewer system, or a sewer main or lateral back-up that causes sewage to flow out of either a manhole or a privately owned sewer vent;
- Internal dumping of oil, grease, paint, solvents, or automobile fluids into storm drains;
- Sudsy water from a commercial carwash (the washwater is to be recycled) flowing into a storm drain;
- Sediment from construction activity that gets carried along the roadways and into a storm drain.

If you witness something suspicious flowing into a storm drain or coming out of a stormwater outfall and into a body of water when there has been no recent rain or snow event, please report it by promptly calling 9-1-1. Be sure to provide an address or landmark near the location of the suspected illicit discharge.



Oil runoff



Sediment Runoff



Sudsy Runoff



Raw Sewage runoff