

background on **REHS**

Rutgers Environmental Health and Safety (REHS) provides support to Rutgers University by providing comprehensive and professional health, safety, and environmental services to the University community. REHS is currently collaborating with the School of Communication Information and Library Studies (SCILS) to promote public educational and awareness campaigns relating to protecting the environment. The target audiences for this campaign are University students located in both the New Brunswick and Piscataway areas.

The educational campaigns are designed to focus primarily on the impact that stormwater runoff has on the New Brunswick and Piscataway water system. Runoff can be polluted by common contaminants, which include motor oil and grease, pesticides and fertilizers, litter and animal waste. This polluted run off can have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, beaches, lakes, recreational use and wildlife. The campaigns overall goal is to inform the university community about the hazardous effects of stormwater pollution and to encourage behavioral changes among students, faculty, and staff. For additional information visit the REHS website at <http://rehs.Rutgers.edu>

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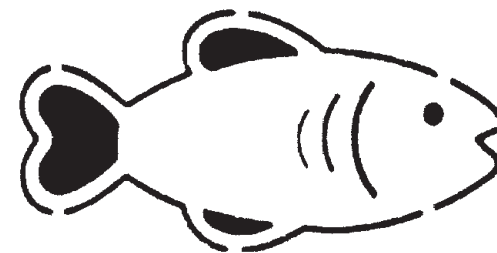
<http://ipo.rutgers.edu>

<http://njstormwater.org>



RUTGERS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

DUMP NO WASTE



DRAINS TO STREAM

THE FACTS ABOUT STORM WATER POLLUTION

The Three A's of Stormwater Pollution Control

Be **AWARE** of your part in storm water runoff

Take **ACTION** and change habits that can make a difference in our waterways.

Notice **ACTIVITIES** that may adversely affect drainage ways, creeks, and lakes.

Automobile Fanatics

Did you know...? – Vehicle and equipment washing have the potential for contaminating receiving waters through the discharged of grit, oil, and even soap used to wash your car! Soapy or oily vehicle wash waters must either be collected for off-site disposal or discharged to a sanitary sewer, if allowed by the local sewer authority.

You can help! Be **AWARE** & Take **ACTION!**

- ◆ Consider using a commercial car wash if your facility or home is not equipped properly to dispose of wash water that contains detergents and oils.
- ◆ Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.
- ◆ Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains. If your community does not already have a program for collecting household hazardous wastes, ask your local government to establish one.

Gardeners

Did you know...? – Lawn and garden chemicals are not environmentally friendly and end up in lakes, rivers, and streams if not disposed up properly. Leaves and grass clippings add unnecessary nutrients to our water bodies, contributes to harmful algae blooms and kills marine life.

You can help! Be **AWARE** & Take **ACTION!**

- ◆ Apply pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers sparingly and according to directions.
- ◆ Never apply chemicals when a heavy rain is forecast.
- ◆ Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- ◆ Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscape projects to avoid washing these materials into storm drains. Sweep up work areas prior to anticipated storm events.

Pet Lovers

Did you know...? – Pet waste contains harmful bacterial pollutants and nutrients, which put our water bodies' at risk.

You can help! Be **AWARE** & Take **ACTION!**

- ◆ When walking your pet, pick up and dispose of waste properly. Utilize the "Pet Station" or "Dogipot" waste disposal system when they are available.
- ◆ Keep pet waste out of street gutters and storm drains – these outlets drain directly into lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Home Owners

Did you know...? – Impervious surfaces (such as your roof, driveway, and street pavement) prevent precipitation from entering the ground and groundwater, which is a necessary stage in the water cycle. If wet weather cannot penetrate these "impervious" surfaces, pollutants such as oil and grease from driveways, fertilizers / pesticides, and even septic waste can end up in streams, lakes and rivers.

You can help! Be **AWARE** & Take **ACTION!**

- ◆ Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains – these outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- ◆ Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains. If your community does not already have a program for collecting household hazardous wastes, ask your local government to establish one.
- ◆ Encourage local government officials to develop construction erosion/ sediment control ordinances in your community.
- ◆ Have your septic system inspected and pumped, at a minimum, every 3-5 years so that it operates properly.
- ◆ Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams and coastal waters.

REFERENCES

http://www.ccsd.k12.co.us/dist_info/stormwater.html
www.cambphandbooks.com
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mc/services/dep/SFMP/pdf/faq.pdf>
<http://www.c2e2.org/evc/CafIndex.html>