

Business Owners: Take these simple steps to reduce stormwater runoff and help keep waterways clean in your community.

Dumpsters



- Keep dumpster areas free from litter, debris, and sediments.
- Schedule regular waste pick-ups.
- Keep dumpsters and waste bins covered. Anything in an uncovered dumpster or trash bin is vulnerable to the weather, and can wash into nearby storm drains during wet weather.
- Never wash dumpsters with a hose. If cleaning is needed, contact the leasing company.
- Check dumpsters regularly for leaks and replace if necessary.

Cleaning Outdoor Areas



- Dry sweep paved areas on a regular basis, including parking lots, patios, dumpster areas.
- Do not use a hose to wash down pavement.
- Dispose of debris in waste containers only. Do not sweep trash, yard waste, sand, salt or ice melt chemicals into the gutter or storm drain.
- Avoid over-salting in the winter, and sweep up any excess or spills.

General Cleaning



- Do not pour wash water or chemicals down a storm drain.
- Dispose of wash water down a sink or toilet.
- Store all chemicals in appropriate containers that don't leak.
- Sweep up any excess chemical spills, especially outdoors.
- Use cleaning products that are non-toxic to vegetation and wildlife.

Landscaping



- Limit the use of lawn chemicals and always follow directions.
- Test your soil before adding fertilizer. Why pay for services and materials that you may not need? Have your soil tested by the UMass Extension - visit ag.mass.edu for more information.
- Use organic or slow-release fertilizer. Fertilizer in these forms release nutrients more slowly, lowering the chances that they run off in stormwater. Also, make sure to use fertilizer with no phosphorus - if phosphorus enters our waterways it can cause algal blooms.

Irrigation



- Make sure that sprinkler heads are pointed at the lawn and not the pavement - adjust and fix heads as necessary.
- Add a moisture sensor to your system to ensure irrigation only when needed.
- Avoid irrigating when it's windy to avoid water loss, evaporation, and runoff.
- Observe town water restrictions, especially during periods of drought.

Hardscapes



- Keep all asphalt and concrete to a minimum.
- Use bricks, pavers, or stone to create pathways and patios.
- Use sand (not concrete) between bricks, to allow water to percolate through the seams, rather than runoff into storm drains.

Chemical Storage



- Store all chemical cleaners, road salt, fertilizers, pesticides, and gas and oil for machinery in appropriate containers that don't leak.
- Sweep up any excess chemical spills immediately.

Stormwater runoff is the #1 cause of water pollution in the Neponset River Watershed. Do your part to help protect our water resources. Learn more at YourCleanWater.org