

## Township of Fairfield

# PET WASTE & WATER POLLUTION



Township of Fairfield has adopted and enforces an ordinance that requires immediate and proper disposal of solid pet waste deposited on any property not owned or possessed by the pet owner or keeper.

Pet waste is carried by rain, melting snow, and ice to storm drains that empty into rivers, lakes, and the ocean. It also reaches reservoirs which supply much of the drinking water in New Jersey.

Pollution due to pet waste negatively impacts swimming, boating and fishing in these water bodies. Pet waste contains microorganisms that can cause bacterial diseases, roundworms and parasitic infections.

In addition, pet waste contains harmful levels of nutrients which promote excessive algae and plant growth. This can rob the waterbody of oxygen, potentially killing all aquatic life in the area. Such nutrient pollution also causes waters to become cloudy and green.

### REAR YARD DRAINAGE EASEMENTS

Residents with rear yard easements for drainage are reminded of the regulations pertaining to easements. It is the owner's responsibility to maintain this property so that storm water may flow into basins. An easement merely grants the Township the right to enter upon the property to make repairs. It is not the Township's responsibility to maintain and keep these easements clear.

Residents are reminded that they are not to infringe upon these easements with sheds, gardens or other obstructions which may obstruct the flow of storm water. Additionally, should the Township be required to enter along these easements to make repairs, the Township is not required to replace shrubs, plantings, fences or other obstructions, which have infringed upon the easement.

## Proper Pet Waste Disposal

Flush it down the toilet.

\*But do not flush bags, debris, or nonbiodegradable items\*

OR

Put it in the trash.

**THANK YOU FOR  
DOING YOUR PART  
TO KEEP  
NEW JERSEY'S  
WATERS CLEAN**



For More  
Info

- NJDEP Municipal Stormwater Regulation <https://dep.nj.gov/njpdcs-stormwater/municipal-stormwater-regulation-program/example-ordinances/>
- EPA- Polluted Runoff: Nonpoint Source Pollution <https://www.epa.gov/nps>  
Township Pet Waste Ordinance: <https://ecode360.com/35309246>
- #35309246

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

## *Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water*

### **A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water**

**P**ollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



### **Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides**

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.

### **Don't Litter**

- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.

### **Properly dispose of hazardous products**

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.

### **Dispose of yard waste properly**

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

**Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese!**