

# Everyday Tips to Reduce Stormwater Pollution

Everyone can help reduce stormwater pollution using a few of the tips available below:

1. Remember: Only rain belongs in the drain! Don't dump anything down storm drains. Be sure to clear away leaves and debris.
2. Wash your car over your lawn or gravel. This allows the ground to neutralize the soap and grime from your car rather than sending it directly to our creeks and streams. Use biodegradable or non-toxic soap that is phosphate-free. You can also take your car to a commercial car wash where wastewater is either recycled or treated.
3. Keep your car well-maintained. Fix any fluid leaks promptly and make sure to clean up any spills. If you perform your own automotive maintenance, automotive repair shops will accept 5 gallons of used motor oil per resident per day.
4. Consider disconnecting your downspouts. You can plant a [rain garden](#) to absorb stormwater runoff and/or use a rain barrel to help collect runoff from your roof and gutters to be used on your lawn and garden.
5. Use lawn or garden chemicals sparingly. Choose organic alternatives when possible and check the weather forecast to avoid applying them before a storm.
6. Mow your lawn less often. Try to keep your lawn at least 3" in height to minimize weed growth, reduce the need for watering, and decrease the likelihood of pests. Leaving the clippings on the lawn can also help block weeds and retain moisture. Sweep your sidewalks and driveway rather than hosing them down.
7. Plant native, low maintenance plants and grasses. They often have longer root systems, which reduce the amount of chemicals and water needed.
8. Minimize runoff by not over-watering your lawn/garden. Keep sprinklers on a timer to avoid pooling water.
9. Clean up pet waste. Bag up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash to prevent harmful bacteria from washing into local waterways.
10. Be sure to minimize the amount of ice-melt used. Do not over-apply salt. Choose a more environmentally-friendly alternative when possible.
11. Consider minimizing impervious surfaces around your home. Use bricks, gravel, cobbles, natural stone, or permeable pavers instead of asphalt or concrete when possible.
12. Make sure storm drain outfalls are not running in dry weather. A storm sewer system is designed to carry stormwater. If it hasn't rained in 72 hours, it should not be flowing. Call Honey Brook Township at (610) 273-3970 if it does.
13. Do not drain your pool, spa, or fountain to a storm drain. Allow chlorine to dissipate for several days. Test the water to ensure the residual chlorine is zero before slowly draining to a landscaped area.
14. Keep your septic system well-maintained to prevent leaks. A leaking septic system can leach harmful bacteria into storm sewer systems and local waterways. It is important to [keep your system well-maintained](#) to prevent costly repairs as well.