

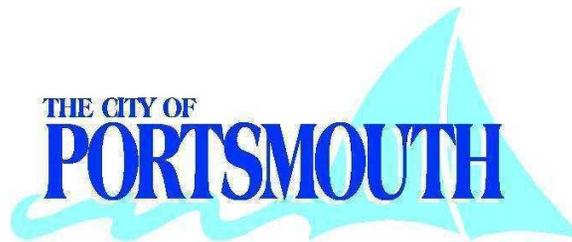
How Can Businesses Reduce the Impact of Stormwater Runoff?

The business and industry community can make a big impact on reducing stormwater pollution. Most problems with stormwater begin with impervious surfaces. Large building, roads, parking lots and walkways prevent stormwater from being absorbed into the ground where it is filtered by the soil.

There are, however, many ways to minimize the effects of stormwater pollution and make your business a proactive contributor to a clean and safe environment. By incorporating innovative ideas and thinking to your operations and facilities, you can help to reduce pollution and improve your public image.

Keep an eye out for these outdoor activities, which contribute to Stormwater Pollution:

- Refueling, engine repair, equipment washing, and painting activities, especially when wastewater is released outside.
- Vehicle, equipment, and material storage that exposes spilled, leaked, and overflowing fluids and chemicals to rain and stormwater runoff.
- Cleaning and maintenance activities like power washing, sandblasting, and car washing that produce large volumes of wastewater..
- Commercial properties and residential lawns where fertilizers and pesticides are used.
- Construction activities that excavate land, exposing loose dirt and sand.



Department of Public Utilities/Works *Stormwater Management*

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What Is This Stuff Called Stormwater...

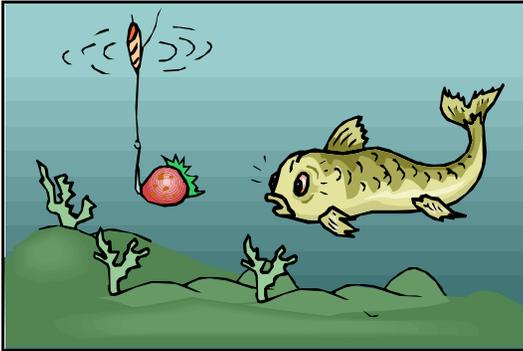


And Why Do I Need To Know?

*A Guide to the City of Portsmouth's
Stormwater Management Ordinance*

Do You Know Where The Water Goes When It Rains?

How about the water you use when you wash your car or water the lawn? Some of this water soaks into the ground but the rest of it *runs off* the land surface. It is this *runoff* water that we call *Stormwater*. Stormwater, by itself, is not harmful to our environment. But as it travels across lawns, rooftops, roadways, and parking lots it picks up a variety of pollutants such as fertilizers, motor oils, sediments, trash and yard debris. All this "stuff" ends up in the nearest storm drain or gutter pan and discharges, **UNTREATED**, into nearby receiving waterways, such as the Elizabeth River.



Why Is It Important?

Polluted stormwater can harm fish, wildlife and plants, and can even contaminate drinking water. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that at least 50% of our nation's water pollution is caused by polluted stormwater runoff! And if that's not bad enough, the "BIG stuff" in stormwater - like trash, leaves and grass clippings, contributes to street flooding by blocking drainage inlets and clogging underground storm drainage pipes.

City Stormwater Ordinance

The Federal Clean Water Act requires cities to implement a stormwater management program based on regulations by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The City of Portsmouth enacted the Stormwater Management Ordinance 31.1 in 1983 to strictly prohibit the depositing, discharging or dumping of any or all materials into the City's stormwater system, including gutter pans, streets.

According to city ordinances it is unlawful to:

- Put any filth, animal or vegetable matter, chips, shavings or any other substance in the stormwater system.
- Pour or discharge or deposit any gasoline, oil waste, anti-freeze, or other fluids from vehicles or motor vehicles or equipment into any stormwater system.
- Discharge process water or anything without a permit from any commercial, industrial or manufacturing entity into any stormwater system.
- Throw, place or deposit in any gutter, ditch, storm drain or other drainage area, anything that impedes or interferes with the free flow of stormwater.

Section 31.1-3(b) indicates that violations to the ordinances shall be classed as a "Class 1 misdemeanor" resulting in fine or penalties for polluting the storm drainage system of \$1000 per violation, or 30 days jail time, per violation.

Violators may also be held liable for all damage, loss and/or expense incurred by the city as a result of the violation. In addition the responsible person may be required to remediate or remove any discharges or risk further violations.

The Portsmouth Pollution Patrol

Police officers and fire marshals serve as the City's **STORMWATER POLLUTION PATROL** - empowered to enforce the Stormwater Code and



protect our storm drainage system from polluters! These officers can issue citations when they witness anyone illegally dumping or depositing any substances down the city stormwater system.

What Can You Do?

To make sure you don't violate city ordinances and national laws, follow these simple but helpful hints:

- Do not pour **ANYTHING** into a storm drainage inlet, the street, ditch or in the gutter pan!
- Do not allow any pipe or hose to be discharged from your home or business into a storm drainage inlet, the street or in the gutter pan!
- Do not put leaves, trash, debris or **ANYTHING** into a storm drainage inlet, the street or in the gutter pan!
- Let your grassy lawn serve as a filter when washing cars.
- Use biodegradable, or low or non-phosphate detergents
- Report anyone who deposits, dumps or drains materials or substances into stormwater system.

And if you'd like to help us fight the battle of pollution prevention, don't hesitate to call the **STORMWATER POLLUTION PATROL** to report a violation at the Police Department's non-emergency line: 757-393-5300.