



# THE MAIN DRAIN

STORMWATER NEWS YOU CAN USE

A Publication of the Portsmouth Department of Public Utilities/Public Works -  
Division of Stormwater Management  
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## IT'S ONLY RAIN. . . So What's the Problem?



Excessive rain means excessive runoff and, if the storm drains are clogged, it means excessive flooding.

It's that time of year when we get lots of storms and even hurricanes that all bring heavy downpours. It's also that time of year when we like to cut and edge our lawns. The problem comes when folks dispose of their grass clippings and yard waste into the street, curb and gutter or storm drain inlets. THEN. . .when the BIG STORMS come, we've got a clogged drainage system. The result is . . . .FLOODED STREETS!

To help prevent this situation, bag your grass clippings and dispose of them with your regular trash. Or

better yet, use a mulching mower and mulch them up on your lawn. They'll serve as a natural fertilizer and help you save some money!

And if you're a person who likes to make sure that everyone else does the right thing too, you can call the Police non-emergency number at 393-5300 when you see someone deliberately sweep, blow or rake their grass clippings into the street, curb and gutter or storm drain inlets. Such pollution is a Misdemeanor and it can result in a \$1,000 fine!

Be a . . .  
"grasscycler."  
Recycle your  
grass clippings!



### STORMWATER TIP OF THE MONTH:

**DON'T DRIP AND DRIVE!**  
Keep your car in good working order and make sure it doesn't leak oil or other fluids. When it rains, these products get washed down the storm drain system and flow straight into our area waterways. With over 72,414 registered vehicles in Portsmouth, that's a lot of potential sources for runoff pollution. So. . .DO YOUR PART! Keep your car well maintained and properly dispose of used auto fluids.