

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Actions You Can Take to Protect and Restore Barnegat Bay

## Why does Barnegat Bay need our help?

Long appreciated for its great aesthetic, economic and recreational value, an array of human impacts now threaten the health of Barnegat Bay.

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain and snow melt into ditches, storm drains, streams, rivers and ultimately, Barnegat Bay.

This stormwater pollution is one of Barnegat Bay's greatest threats to clean water and the rivers and creeks that drain into it. Fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, animal waste, detergents, grass clippings, yard waste and litter are all examples of stormwater pollution.

## Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need to fertilize.
- Use a drop spreader to apply fertilizer.
- Sweep up fertilizer from pavement and other hard surfaces after applying.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Follow the instructions on the bag label for correct application procedures.
- Try alternatives to pesticides, such as plants that repel insects.
- Properly store fertilizers and pesticide.
- Landscape your property using native vegetation and plants.



To learn more about the proper use of fertilizer, go to [www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater](http://www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater).

As a resident, business, or visitor of Barnegat Bay, there are everyday actions you can take to help reduce stormwater pollution.



## Clean up after your pet

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up pet wastes.
- Dispose of pet waste in the trash or un-wrapped in a toilet.
- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

## Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed ducks, geese, or other forms of wildlife in public areas.

## Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles and keep it out of storm drains.
- Reduce, re-use and recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.

Sign up to receive electronic Barnegat Bay Action Updates from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Join the listserv and learn more about the Barnegat Bay Ten Point Action Plan at [www.barnegatbay.nj.gov](http://www.barnegatbay.nj.gov).

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

## Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Use leaves and grass clippings for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

## Be a green boater

- Obey no wake zones and other navigational aids.
- Use pump-out stations and vessels, and don't discharge raw sewage into open waters.
- Use non-toxic, biodegradable materials when cleaning, repairing and maintaining your boat.
- Collect paint chips, dust and residue and dispose of it in the trash.



## Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Do not pour household or commercial cleaning products, including lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze and paints, down storm drains or into open water.
- Properly label and store hazardous products.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

## Take action and be part of the solution

*Stormwater pollution is one of Barnegat Bay's greatest threats.* By sharing the responsibility and making these small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water in the Bay and saves the high cost of cleaning it up once it becomes dirty.

## For More Information

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Nonpoint Source Pollution Control  
(609) 633-7021  
Office of Communications  
(609) 984-1795



To learn more about water quality and stormwater pollution, go to [www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org)