

# Did You Know?



Storm drain on Common Street

## WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. Runoff, or the water that flows over various surfaces, can collect pollutants as it drains down towards our brooks, ponds, and storm drains.



## COMMON STORMWATER POLLUTANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Total Phosphorus
- Total Nitrogen
- Bacteria/pathogens such as E. Coli
- Chloride
- Solids (sedimentation/siltation or turbidity)
- Oil and grease (oil slicks, Benzo(a) pyrene (PAHs))
- Metals (cadmium, copper, iron, lead, zinc)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NH Department of Environmental Services are most concerned with levels of Total Phosphorus and Bacteria in Pelham waterbodies.

## WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

An "illicit discharge" is any discharge to a drainage system, surface water, or groundwater that is not composed entirely of stormwater, excluding certain allowable discharges which can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3WE76LW> Some examples of an illicit discharge include septic system overflows or oil spills.

## WHAT DO I DO IF I SEE AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

If you see an illicit discharge happening, report it to Dena Hoffman at (603) 508-3000 ext. 3101 (Outside of work hours Mon-Fri 8AM-4PM, call Police or Fire) or [dhoffman@pelhamweb.com](mailto:dhoffman@pelhamweb.com). Mention the location and what you think the material may be. It's okay if you don't know what it is, just describe it to the best of your ability such as appearance, odor, etc.

**If it's an emergency situation please call 911 first.**

<https://www.des.nh.gov/water/stormwater>  
Check out this link for more information on stormwater in New Hampshire!

## WHAT CAN I DO AS A RESIDENT?

- Switch to a low Phosphorus content fertilizer
- Avoid overwatering your lawn
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly
- Have your septic system checked regularly
- Don't dump anything into a storm drain or connect a pipe into one
- Attend your local Household Hazardous Waste Day
- Use chloride alternatives in winter

## WHAT CAN I DO AS A BUSINESS OWNER?

- Hire Green SnowPro certified contractors for snow plowing
- Wash work vehicles on grass or at a carwash
- Plant native perennials on your property
- Keep trash and wastes out of storm drains
- Avoid overuse of pesticides and fertilizers
- Any spills need to be cleaned up and prevented from entering storm drains



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