



The City of Westfield Stormwater

What is it?

Stormwater Runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground without being absorbed, in other words it *runs off* the surface. As *runoff* flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Runoff can flow into storm sewers first, or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland, or other water body.

Storm Sewers are pipes dedicated to transporting runoff to lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, or other water bodies, with little or no treatment to remove pollutants.

Stormwater Management attempts to reduce the amount of runoff created, keep that runoff clean of pollutants, and transport it safely through storm sewers and other flow paths to receiving water bodies.



Why is it important?

Improperly managed stormwater can cause flooding and washouts, and can pollute our waterways. This can adversely affect plants, fish, animals, and people. Fertilizers, pet waste, household chemicals, automotive oil and antifreeze, sediment, and debris can all disrupt the balance of life in our waterways and make drinking water sources difficult and expensive to treat.

It's the law: The Clean Water Act, NPDES program, Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and Water Quality Certification Regulations (314 CMR 9.00), City of Westfield Street and Sidewalk Ordinance Ch. 16-7, 16-109, and 16-110.

Do:

Direct downspouts and roof leaders away from paved surfaces and onto lawns to reduce the amount of runoff generated and increase infiltration.

Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping to prevent these materials from becoming pollutants by blowing or washing off your yard and into local water bodies.



Dispose of chemicals properly: Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids. Use hazardous substances like paint, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, clean up spills immediately and dispose of waste safely. Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.

Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant to reduce the need for watering and minimize the need for fertilizer and pesticides.

Don't:

Don't put pet waste down the storm drain. Avoid public health risks, pick up and flush it instead.

Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run into storm drains.

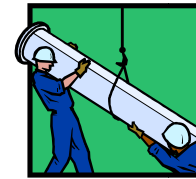
Don't drain chlorinated pool water into the storm drain. Instead, consult the City Water Pollution Control Department for advice on safe pool water disposal.



Don't hose down areas of construction or yard debris. Instead, sweep up and dispose of these materials properly.

Don't apply pesticides and fertilizers if it is going to rain. Otherwise apply sparingly and follow recommended amounts.

Stormwater Fee



The City of Westfield Stormwater Fee is in place to support improvements and repairs to our city-wide stormwater management systems. These systems are necessary to help the

City maintain compliance with our federally mandated United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

Infrastructure Facts

Westfield has more than 720 streets (totaling over 250 miles in length) with 117 linear miles of storm sewers, and over 300 outfall pipes discharging stormwater to many various waterways. The City's infrastructure is constantly aging, and many of our original sanitary sewers and storm sewers are over 100 years old. Repairs to underground infrastructure and drainage pathways can be both difficult and costly, and the stormwater fee is designed to help cover these costs.



Contact Us

For more information on your Stormwater Management System contact:

City of Westfield
Department of Public Works
59 Court Street
Westfield, MA 01085
413-642-9397.

Or go Online:

www.cityofwestfield.org/index.aspx?nid=233

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/wastewater/stormwater.html#8>

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater



The City of Westfield

Wastewater

What is it?

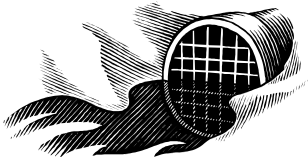
Wastewater is water from the toilet, sink, shower, bathtub and washing machine in your home or business. It flows into the sanitary sewer system for a trip to the City of Westfield Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 149 Neck Road, where it is cleaned and then returned to the Westfield River. In areas where sewer service is not available, wastewater is treated by your private septic system.

Sanitary Sewers are dedicated to transporting wastewater, or sewage, through a series of pipes and pumping stations, before being processed at the treatment plant.

Septic Systems are individual wastewater treatment systems that use soil to treat wastewater flows, usually from individual homes. They are typically used in rural or large lot settings where centralized wastewater treatment is impractical.

Why is it important?

Improperly managed wastewater can pollute public water supplies and the environment. Blockages in the sanitary sewer and in private septic systems can cause sewage overflows, and repairs/replacement of these systems can be costly.



Fats, Oils, and Grease

Fats, Oil, and Grease (F.O.G) from food preparation can build up in sewer pipes causing blockages, backups, and overflows. Sources of F.O.G. include gravy, sauces, soups, cooking oil, butter, margarine, lard, shortening, milk, cream, mayonnaise, food scraps, and oil/drippings from cooked meats. Wastewater and sewage overflows caused by F.O.G. blockages can harm public welfare, damage personal property, and the environment.

Tips for proper handling of F.O.G and keeping drains clog free:

- Pour fats, oil, and grease into a container to store in the freezer, and then put it in trash after it hardens.
- Use a paper towel to wipe down greasy dishes before washing.
- Put food scraps in compost bin or trash.

Restaurant Best Management Practices for handling F.O.G:

- Clean and maintain grease traps (interceptors) on a regular basis.
- Train employees on the benefits of proper grease disposal.
- Post "No Grease" signs over sinks and dishwashers.
- Recycle waste cooking oil.
- Cover outdoor grease storage containers.
- Routinely clean kitchen exhaust systems.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The City of Westfield Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1972 and treats approximately 4 million gallons of sewage from approximately 18,000 residents and businesses. The sewage is processed through a series of screens, separators, microbial digesters, settling tanks, and clarifiers before being discharged to the Westfield River. The treatment plant is not designed to handle the removal of hazardous chemicals, which can disrupt the treatment process.

Protecting Your Sewer and Wastewater System

- Do not drain or flush fats, oils, and grease.
- Do not drain or flush hazardous materials (paints, chemicals, solvents).
- Do not drain or flush medicine.
- Do not drain or flush food scraps.
- Do not pump clean groundwater from your sump pump into your wastewater system.
- Do not plant trees near your sewer lateral line.
- Inspect and clean your septic system every 3-5 years.

Contact Us

For more information contact:

City of Westfield
Water Resources Department
28 Sackett Street
Westfield, MA 01085
413-572-6243

Or go Online:

<http://www.cityofwestfield.org/index.aspx?nid=230>

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/wastewater/>