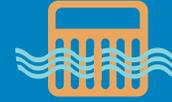


Prevent Water Pollution

Rain and melting snow wash anything that's on streets and other paved surfaces down storm drains and into lakes, rivers, and watersheds.

Caring for your storm drain and protecting clean water

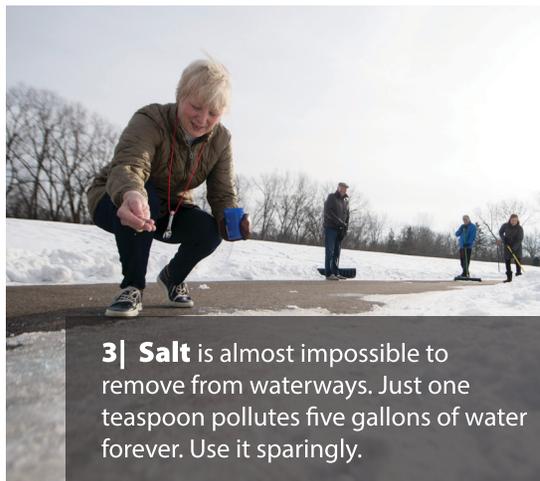
ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



1| Leaves, grass, and dirt contain phosphorus, which feeds the algae that turn lakes green. Keep them off streets and sidewalks.



2| Trash clogs drains and pipes causing flooding. Put it in the garbage.



3| Salt is almost impossible to remove from waterways. Just one teaspoon pollutes five gallons of water forever. Use it sparingly.



4| Dog poop carries harmful bacteria, parasites, and phosphorus. Pick up after your pet!

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

Adopt a Storm Drain
nj.adopt-a-drain.org



Thank you for adopting a storm drain!



Tips on how to clear your storm drain and be safe while doing it



Helpful tools for cleaning the storm drain: a broom, a rake, a trash grabber, gloves, an orange cone and/or safety vest, a snow shovel or dustpan, and a pail or yard waste bag. (A rolling pail could be deluxe if you have one.)



Clean only the surface of the storm drain grate and the area around it. **Never remove the grate** or otherwise attempt to clean inside the catch basin. If the drain seems to be plugged or have any problem, contact local DPW and they will send workers to address the issue.

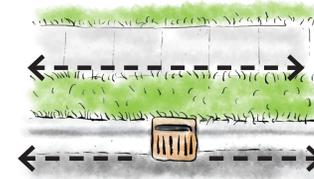


Safety first! There could be something sharp or otherwise harmful near the drain, so wear gloves to protect your hands and be careful when picking up leaves and trash. You might want to use a trash grabber to collect debris.

Consider wearing **bright or reflective clothing** when you are clearing the storm drain to make sure you are visible to cars. Do not stand or crouch on busy streets.



Busy streets. It's best to adopt drains on local residential streets. If you do adopt a drain on a street with lots of traffic, please stick to clearing trash and debris from the sidewalk and let local DPW take care of the street and the surface of the storm drain.



Not just the drain. While the program asks you to adopt a drain, clearing debris from streets and sidewalks is helpful, since anything on pavement can wash into storm drains when it rains.



To dispose of waste, separate it into three categories and place it in the appropriate receptacle: trash, recyclables (glass and plastic bottles, cans) and compostables (leaves, grass clippings, sticks, and sediment).

Sediment you collect in the spring is not compostable, as it contains chemical residue from deicers used over the winter. Put it in the trash. If there is a lot of spring sediment near your drain, you may want to let local DPW take care of it since many trash haulers will not take sediment. If there is A LOT of sediment near your drain, notify local DPW, as this may be an indicator of a bigger problem.



If you have **questions about how to properly dispose of trash**, compost and recyclables, contact local DPW or your garbage collection service.



If you have any **questions about the Adopt-a-Drain program**, please email us: adoptadrain@westfieldnj.gov