

**DON'T LET POLLUTION DESTROY  
OUR RESOURCES!  
WHAT HOMEOWNERS CAN DO**

**VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:**

- Wash your car on an unpaved surface.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle and garden machinery for leaks.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like sand.
- Recycle used motor oil.

**LAWNS AND GARDENS:**

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Sweep up yard debris.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.

**HOME REPAIR:**

- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Dispose of hazardous materials on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

**PET CARE:**

- Clean up pet waste outdoors by bagging it or flushing it down your toilet.
- Dispose of kitty litter in the trash.

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS:**

- Pump your septic tank regularly. (every 1-3 years)
- Don't flush household chemicals down your drain.

**SWIMMING POOLS:**

- Store pool chemicals in a covered area.
- Use care to prevent leaks and spills of chemicals.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**

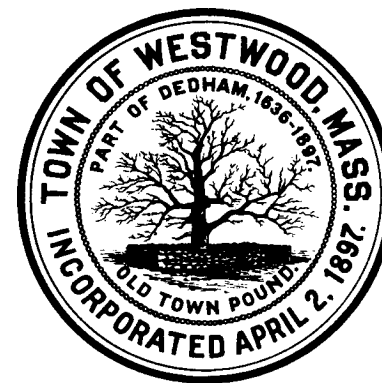
- Utilize porous materials, paving stones, bricks etc., instead of asphalt for walkways.
- Build a garden shed to store fertilizer, pesticides etc.

**[www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us) for more information**

Town of Westwood  
Department of Public Works  
50 Carby Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

**Residential Customer  
Westwood, MA 02090**

# PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN WESTWOOD'S STREAMS



**TOWN OF WESTWOOD  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM**

**WESTWOOD DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC WORKS  
&  
WESTWOOD CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION**

**TOWN ENGINEER: 781-251-2591**

**BULK  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NORWOOD, MA  
PERMIT #83**

## WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff is rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows over driveways, streets, lawns, and sidewalks; it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants.

Stormwater flows into drainage ditches or catch basins which are part of the municipal separate storm sewer system (or MS4). Stormwater runoff is discharged untreated directly into lakes, streams,



## THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

Water that we use for swimming, fishing, recreation, or for farmed by polluted stormwater runoff. High

bacteria levels in lakes will result in swimming not being allowed. Hazardous wastes in lakes and streams will poison fish and humans. Trash washed into these lakes and streams can choke birds and small animals.

rivers, wetlands, or coastal waters.

## WHAT MUNICIPALITIES ARE DOING

In 1972 Congress enacted The Clean Water Act to prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into waters of the U.S. from a point source (e.g. from a wastewater treatment plant). Later Congress prohibited polluted stormwater discharges as well. In 2003 local governments were assigned responsibility for protecting the quality of the stormwater that they discharge from their MS4 into waters of the U.S. Municipalities are now required to prepare and follow their stormwater management

plan. Municipalities are using best management good housekeeping practices at town owned facilities and during vehicle maintenance to prevent leachate from polluting the stormwater that exits the site. Municipalities are sweeping streets and

cleaning out catch basins regularly to keep debris  
out of the MS4. Municipalities will be adopting  
local

regulations that will prohibit dumping or discharging  
contaminants into the MS4. Municipalities are adopting  
up-to-date methods to keep our water resources clean.