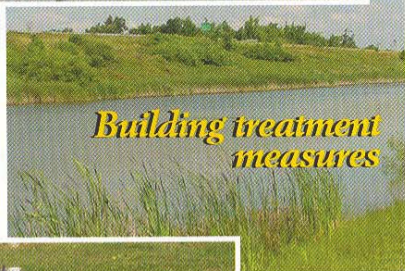


What are DelDOT and New Castle County doing?

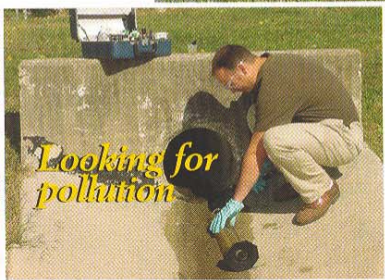
We are...



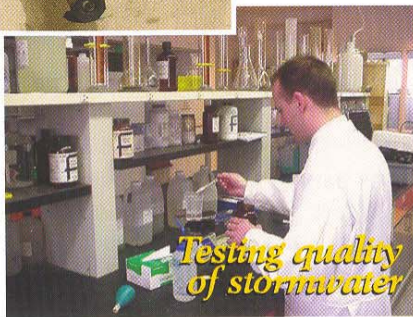
Street Sweeping



Building treatment measures



Looking for pollution



Testing quality of stormwater



You can help us protect our water quality by reporting...

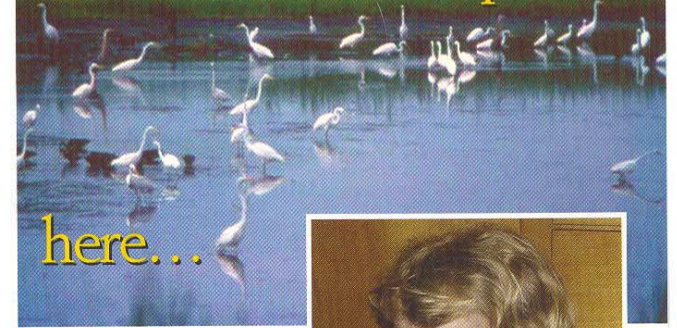
- anyone improperly disposing laundry wastewater, septic system effluent or any household chemicals into the storm drain system.
- any strange odors or stains near a storm drain.
- any dead fish in streams or ponds.

Call...

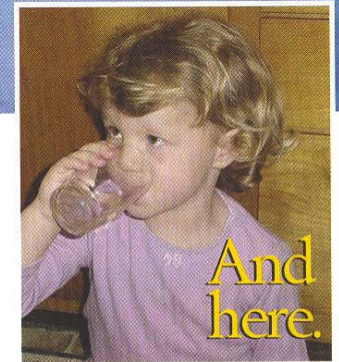
DelDOT	302-323-1111
New Castle County	302-395-5700
DNREC	800-662-8802



What flows down the storm drain ends up



here...



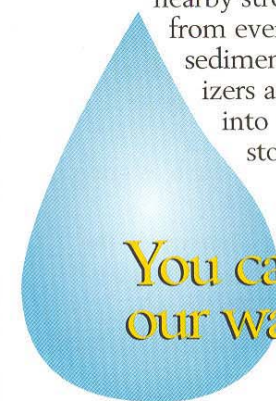
And here.

Fresh Water Fact

In Delaware, only 4% of our streams and rivers fully support standards for swimmable waters and only 29% fully support standards for fish and aquatic life. What we do on the land directly affects the quality of the water we drink and the animals that must live there.

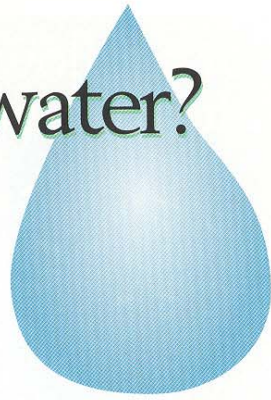
Our Storm Drain System in New Castle County

The storm drain system is a network of pipes and ditches designed to carry untreated stormwater runoff away from developed areas to help prevent flooding. It then flows directly into nearby streams or rivers. Contaminants from every community—gas and oil, sediments, sewage, pet waste, fertilizers and pesticides—are carried into local storm drains after storm events.



You can help protect our water.

What can YOU do to help protect our water?



Use the following check lists around your home and yard to help prevent storm water pollution from entering local storm drains and protect Delaware's water quality.

Fertilizers

Excess fertilizer can pollute local streams and rivers. During application, be careful not to spill fertilizers on sidewalks or driveways. Because they mix easily with rain water they cause pollution problems if washed into a storm drain. **Remember: our storm drains empty directly into local streams and rivers without any treatment.**

- Apply only the recommended amount of fertilizer needed and calibrate the spreader's settings.
- Never apply fertilizer to frozen ground or when rain has been forecasted.
- Use organic fertilizers such as grass clippings and compost.

Note: By leaving grass clippings on the lawn or composting them, you can save up to 25% on fertilizer costs.

Stormwater Runoff

Due to the increase of impervious surfaces, stormwater flows have become more rapid and concentrated. This forceful flow of water can erode land and pick up pollutants as it travels to storm drains.

- Direct downspouts onto the lawn, garden, or landscaped areas.
- Collect roof runoff in a rain barrel and use the water to irrigate the lawn or garden.
- Limit paved surfaces by choosing more porous options such as wooden decks and gravel or brick paths to allow rainwater to slowly seep into the ground.
- If you live along a stream...
 - allow a vegetated buffer to grow along the stream bank; do not mow to the edge.
 - plant native trees and shrubs along streams to stabilize banks, trap pollutants, and provide stream habitat.

Household & Automotive Chemicals

Common chemicals used in our homes and vehicles are toxic and should never be poured down storm drains, on the ground, in gutters, or in local waterways. **One gallon of oil poured down a storm drain can contaminate up to one million gallons of drinking water.** Contact the Delaware Solid Waste Authority at 1-800-404-7080 or www.dswa.com for a complete list of accepted materials and drop off locations in your area.

- Recycle motor oil and filters.
- Dispose of vehicle fluids and household chemicals at a hazardous waste drop off location.
- Regular vehicle maintenance reduces the potential for leaks.

Pesticides

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, **homeowners apply 10 times more per acre than the average farmer applies!** Using pesticides not only eliminates harmful insects, but also kills beneficial insects such as ladybugs and praying mantises.

- Eliminate or minimize the use of chemical pesticides.
- If you use pesticides, read the label carefully, wear protective clothing, follow the directions exactly, and spot spray. Dispose of excess material at a hazardous waste drop-off location.

Nutrients & Bacteria

Some of the excess nutrients found in our waterways can be attributed to yard waste, common household soaps, detergents and even our pets. These excess nutrients can cause algae blooms and fish kills. In addition to contributing extra nutrients to local waterways, pet waste contains disease causing bacteria and viruses.

- Compost grass clippings, brush, and other yard waste — never dispose of these materials in a storm drain or local stream.
- Wash your car in a grassy area where the water can infiltrate or take it to a commercial car wash.
- As part of your lawn maintenance, collect your pet waste and dispose of it in the garbage or flush it.