

The Dirt on Water Pollution



What is a Watershed?

All the water and the land area that “sheds” its water into a particular river, bay, or ocean



Stormwater Contributes to Water Pollution



Common Water Pollutants Found in Stormwater

- Nutrients (nitrogen & phosphorus)
 - Pesticides/Herbicides
 - Sediments
 - Bacteria
 - Oil and Greases
- 

Nutrients

Causes of nutrient pollution





Nutrients act as “vitamins” for plant and algae growth in the water

Sediment

Common sources of sedimentation are erosion from unprotected stream banks and having bare soils exposed



Suspended sediment gives waterbodies a brownish color.

This reduces amount of sunlight in the water that is important to aquatic life



Bacteria

Animal waste and human waste get washed into rivers and streams by stormwater flows.

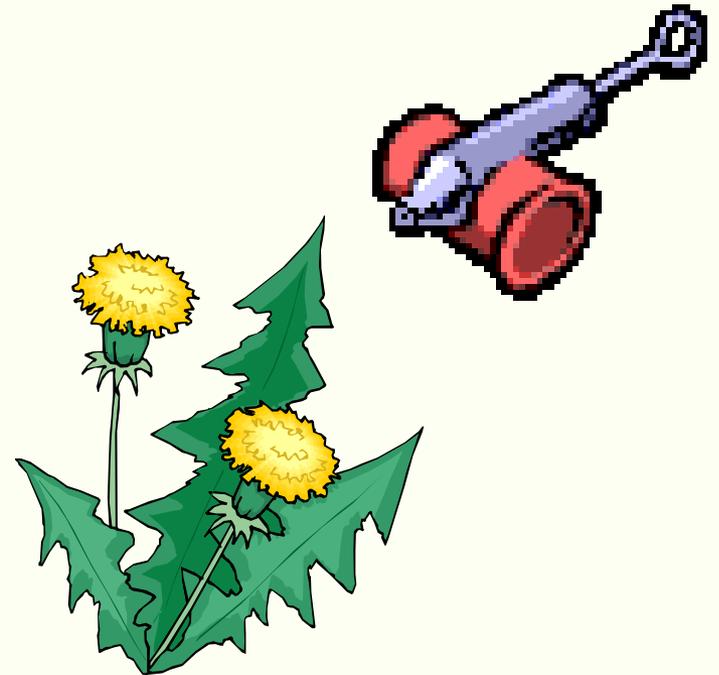




Bacteria found in waste material can be harmful to humans and wildlife

Pesticides and Herbicides

Just like fertilizers, applying too much pesticide and Herbicide can contribute to water pollution



Oils, Greases and Household Chemicals



Helping to Solve the Problem

- DeIDOT's Stormwater Quality Program works to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by stormwater runoff (or dumped) into the storm sewer system and then discharged from the storm sewer system into local waterbodies.
- What specifically does the Stormwater Quality and the NPDES Program do?

The Stormwater Quality Program Includes

- Performing illicit discharge investigation and remediation
- Controlling construction site stormwater runoff
- Managing post-construction stormwater in new developments





Also...

BMP retrofits, structural controls and operations, spill prevention and response, and flood control projects

And...

Public education and training



Water Pollution is Everyone's Problem

So, Be Part Of The Solution!

What are some things that
I can do that will make a
big difference?

Report Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

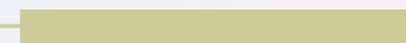
To Report Call:

■ DNREC

800-662-8802

■ DeIDOT

800-652-5600



To Report a Stormwater Maintenance Concern

- DNREC Stormwater Help Line:
800-464-4357

- DeIDOT General Information:
800-652-5600



Dispose of Hazardous Waste Properly



www.dswa.com  1-800-404-7080

**Household
Hazardous
Waste Collection**

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events are scheduled for the first Saturday of the month listed for the following locations:

Delaware Recycling Center - September
Cheswold Collection Station - October
Pine Tree Corners - April
SSWMC (Sussex Landfill) - May

All events held rain or shine 8:00am - 4:00pm

Hazardous materials should never be poured down storm drains or buried

Clean up After Your Pet



Maintain Cars

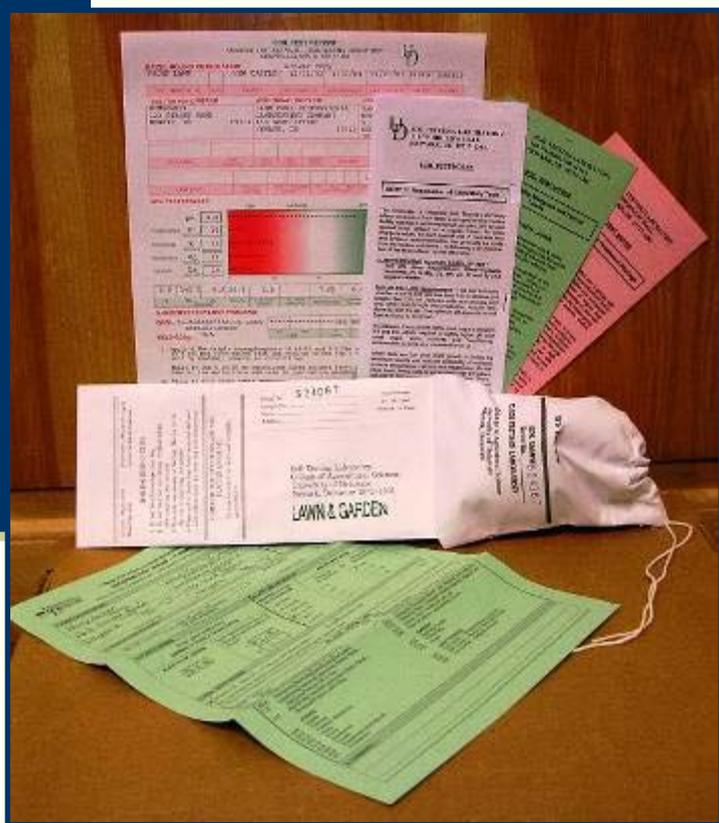
- **Check** for drips and leaks of automotive fluids
- **Clean up** all spills immediately
- **Recycle** your car's oil

- **Properly dispose** of other automotive fluids as household hazardous waste
- **Wash** your car on a grassy area or use a carwash (they recycle water!)



Have your Soil Tested...

...Before adding fertilizer



New Castle Cooperative Extension

(302) 831-2667

Kent Cooperative Extension

(302) 730-4000

Sussex Cooperative Extension

(302) 856-2585

Maintain Septic Systems Properly

**Not in My
Septic System!**

X Cloggers

diapers, cat litter, cigarette filters, coffee grounds, grease, feminine hygiene products, etc.

X Killers

household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, etc.

Remember to have your septic inspected every 3-5 years

For more information...

About stormwater issues and what we discussed in this presentation, you can:

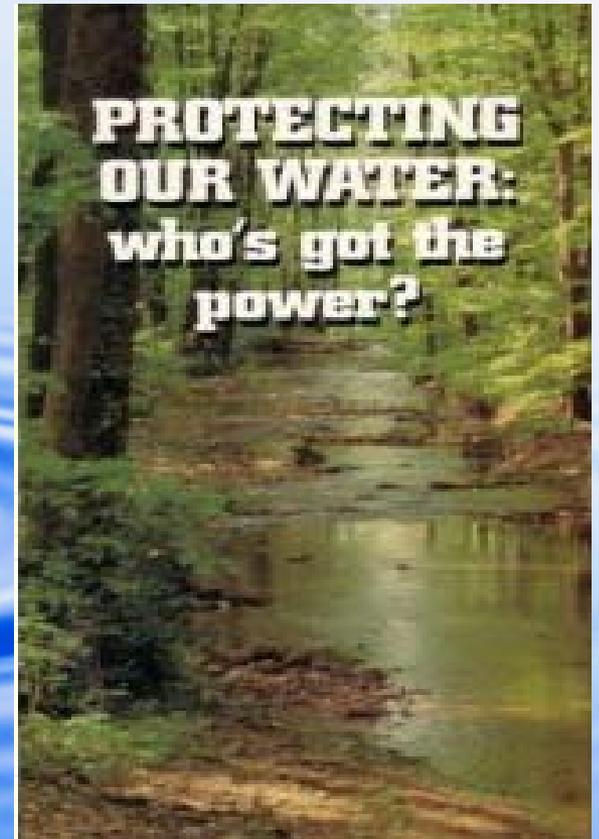
Visit our website at:

www.deldot.gov/stormwater

or

Request the Delaware Nature Society and the Stroud Water Research Center's video:

Protecting Our Waters: Who's Got The Power? from DeIDOT





Please DO YOUR PART
TO KEEP IT CLEAN!