

Why are volunteers marking the storm drains?

Storm drains in your area are being marked by volunteers to let everyone in the neighborhood know that materials or liquids should not be dumped into the storm drains because it ultimately ends up in Delaware Bay.

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Storm drains allow excess water to be diverted to local waterways. Unfortunately, in the process, storm drains also allow pollution to enter our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, or coastal waters. Anything that enters a storm drain system is discharged into your local waterway, without being treated.

Funding for this project was provided through DNREC, Nonpoint Source Program, by EPA Clean Water Act, Section 319 grant.

For more information on this effort, please contact the DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at 302-739-9921.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

SEDIMENT AND STORMWATER PROGRAM



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DELAWARE STORM DRAIN MARKING

HOW TO HELP...



Vehicles

Don't dump anything down the storm drains. Remember that used motor oil can be taken to the Recycle Delaware Center through the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. To find out more, contact them at 1-800-404-7080 or visit them online at www.DSWA.com.

Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into the storm drain.

Use a commercial car wash whenever possible. If you prefer washing your car at home, be sure to wash it on the lawn so that soapy water soaks into the ground and doesn't run directly into the storm drains, eventually making its way to your local waterbody.



Extra Pavement

Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.



Hazardous Substances

Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible. Be sure to clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through the Household Hazardous Waste Program. To find out more, contact the Delaware Solid Waste Authority at 1-800-404-7080 or go online at www.DSWA.com. Remember that latex paint is not hazardous and can be mixed with kitty litter, sand, or sawdust and left to harden. Dispose of hardened material in the regular trash.



Lawn and Garden

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. If used, apply chemicals in recommended amounts only. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain. Otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.

Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects. Do this to prevent sediment from washing into nearby waterbodies.