

Rensselaer Stormwater Management Program

Lawn and Garden Care

When you take care of your lawn and garden, please take care of the Hudson River!

Did you know that whatever runs off your property when you take care of your lawn or when it rains might pollute the Hudson River and other water bodies? Rensselaer has a system of storm drains that are designed to collect rain water and snow melt and discharge it into our local water bodies.

Anything besides rainwater and snowmelt that gets into the storm drains may end up in the Hudson River, the Quackenderry Creek or Mill Creek. Some of the pollutants that end up in our water bodies include pesticides, fertilizers, grass clippers, oil, grease, road salt, and even trash.

These pollutants can cause serious problems, including fish kills, loss of aesthetic value, impaired recreational areas, and contaminated drinking water.

You can do your part to protect the Hudson River and other bodies of water every time you take care of your property!

Whatever washes off your yard and into the street will eventually end up in the storm drains. That includes lawn fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste, and leaves. By following these simple guidelines, you can help keep our waters clean.

- Don't hose or blow grass clippings or leaves onto the street. Not only is it illegal for your grass clipping and other debris to be on city property, it also pollutes.
- Rake grass clippings and leaves that blow off your property back out of the street and gutter.
- Fertilize only if necessary, and use fertilizer sparingly.
- If you do use fertilizer, sweep any spilled fertilizer off of paved surfaces.
- Choose a zero-phosphorus fertilizer. Phosphorus is a particularly harmful pollutant when it gets into water.
- Use organic fertilizers whenever possible.
- Clean up after pets. Pet waste contains phosphorus as well as harmful bacteria.
- Sweep, don't hose, paved surfaces. If you use a hose, the wash water will carry any oils, silt and other pollutants into the storm sewers.

If you see something, say something!

Water quality is everyone's responsibility. If you see a problem, please report it to the Rensselaer City Police Department at: (518) 462-7451 or send an e-mail to: stormwater@rensselaer.ny.gov

For more information on Rensselaer's Stormwater Management Plan, visit our webpage: <http://www.rensselaer.ny.gov/Departments/PlanningBuilding/>

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Swimming Pools

Only Rain Down the Drain!

Do your part to protect our community's water! In an effort to keep our storm drains clean and free flowing, the City of Rensselaer prohibits discharging of pool water into the storm drain system including filter backwash water.

Please note that when cleaning your pool, it is illegal to dump pool water into the gutter where it can flow into the storm drain system. Your pool water must be disposed through the sanitary sewer system.

Consider the Hudson when its time to clean your pool.

Water from swimming pools, spas, or decorative fountains must be dechlorinated or dbrominated prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer system. Otherwise the discharge of chemicals used in pools can cause serious problems, including fish kills, loss of aesthetic value, impaired recreational areas, and contaminated drinking water.

Guidelines before discharging pool water:

- Pool water should sit for at least 2 days after the addition of chlorine or bromine or until chlorine or bromine levels are below 0.1 mg/l.
- The pH of discharge water must be between 6.5 and 8.5 before it is discharged.
- Algicides such as copper or silver can interrupt normal algal and plant growth and should not be used.
- Total suspended solids must be below 60 mg/l. Suspended particles should be allowed to settle out, and the water should not appear murky. Settled material should not be discharged with pool water.

If you notice a catch basin that contains trash, debris, oil, chemicals, and other waste, notify the Department of Public Works.

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