

## When you fertilize the lawn, remember . . . you're not just fertilizing the lawn.

It's hard to imagine that a green, flourishing lawn could pose a threat to the environment, but the fertilizers you apply to your lawn are potential pollutants! So if you fertilize, please follow directions and use sparingly.



### What's the problem with fertilizers?

Fertilizer is a "growing" problem for lakes, rivers, and streams, especially if it's not used carefully. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then flow into lakes or streams. In the rivers and streams, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae causes water quality problems and makes boating, fishing, and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, it uses up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

### Clean water tips: How to fertilize and help keep waterways clean?

- ❖ Use fertilizer sparingly. Many plants don't need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think.
- ❖ Don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- ❖ Consider using organic fertilizers. They release nutrients more slowly.

Have your soil tested before applying fertilizers to your lawn and gardens.

A standard soil test costs \$15. You may not need to add any fertilizer.

To order a soil test or for more information contact the UMass Extension Soil Testing Lab at 413-545-2311

<http://soiltest.umass.edu/ordering-information>



# HUDSON MASSACHUSETTS

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It is a violation of the Town of Hudson's Illicit Discharges and Detection regulations to discharge chlorinated swimming pool / spa water or any non-stormwater into the municipal drain system.



- ❖ **Keep fallen leaves from your yards out of streets** - Leaf litter leaches nutrients into stormwater runoff and contributes to pollution in our waters.
- ❖ **Clear Storm Drains of debris** - Leaf litter and yard debris plug storm drains and increase flooding issues.
- ❖ **Don't dump in ditches or streams** - Decaying leaf litter releases excess nutrients causing eutrophication and algal blooms.
- ❖ **Compost leaves and yard clippings** - Reduce added chemicals in your yard and garden by making a natural fertilizer with composted leaves

## RESIDENTIAL STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

*Car cleaning, Septic tanks, Leaf Pickup, Draining Pools / Hot tubs, Fertilizer use, Rain gutters*



# HUDSON MASSACHUSETTS



In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from stormwater runoff, which picks up pollutants like leaking oil from cars, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks



## What's wrong with draining my pool, hot tub/ spa or backwash to the street or storm drain?

Street drains and storm drains directly lead to rivers, lakes, streams, and brooks. Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in pool water are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand particles from backwash water can fill in spaces in the stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and Cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.

Also, note that downstream of the rivers and streams in our town are upstream of the neighboring town. River water is used for several purposes. It is hence an illegal discharge per the State and local stormwater laws.



### Right way to drain? Start with Dechlorination!

- ❖ Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5-10 days without adding any chlorine.
- ❖ Use a chemical dechlorination additive (contact your local pool supply store for options).
- ❖ Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit. - Next steps? 2 options

### Option 1- Preferred Method - Your Lawn

Drain dechlorinated water to the grass/turf, or other area on your property that will allow the water to percolate or soak into the ground, if and only if...

- ❖ You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's or any other adjacent property.
- ❖ The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, brook, or other conveyance (i.e. storm drain).
- ❖ Water is not discharged directly to wetlands, streams or other water bodies.

### Option 2: Storm Drain

Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm drain **only** after **all** of the following conditions are met:

- ❖ The preferred method (Option 1) is not possible.
- ❖ The pool or spa is completely dechlorinated.
- ❖ Water pH is between 6 and 9.
- ❖ Provide test results to DPW and obtain approval.
- ❖ No discharge of filter media.
- ❖ Remove excess sediment and leaves.
- ❖ No discharge of acid cleaning wastes or solutions.
- ❖ Discharge water will not pond or flow to neighboring properties.
- ❖ No discharge during rain events.

## WASHING YOUR CAR AT HOME



✓ Always use environmentally friendly car cleaning products

✓ When possible allow wash water to drain to vegetated areas and not directly onto the street

## Septic Tank Maintenance

Septic tanks hold water that carries harmful bacteria and microorganisms that can come into contact and pollute storm water, groundwater, creeks, rivers, lakes, and streams.

- ❖ Inspect/clean your septic tank regularly to avoid overflows.
- ❖ Do not park or drive vehicles on any part of your septic system.
- ❖ In order to avoid damage from roots, do not plant trees or shrubs over or near your septic system.
- ❖ Do not allow wastewater to flow into storm drains, ditches, streets, etc...

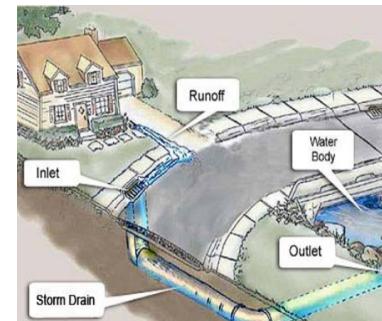
### Other:

- ❖ Check your vehicle for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
- ❖ Pickup after your pet -<https://bit.ly/4jkMPFP>

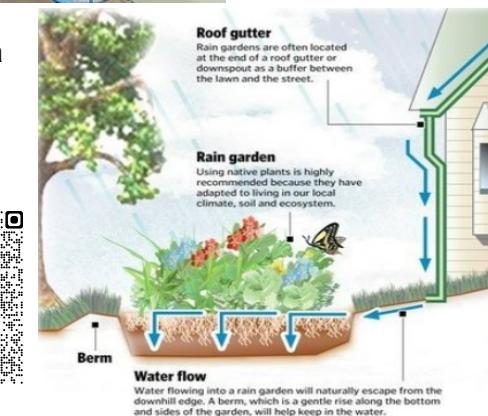


### Roof Runoff tips:

Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture run off



Run off on driveways can collect oil/grease and other pollutants, Instead divert to rain gardens shown below.



Visit the epa website, for information about rain gardens:

