

Have you seen this Fish?



The Public Works Department has placed “Fish” markers on all drains throughout the Township. **DO NOT DUMP – DRAINS TO CREEK.** Remember rain and melting snow collect pollutants and wash into storm drains. Many drains empty into our local waterways. Help protect our water and wildlife by servicing your car regularly to prevent oils and other fluids from leaking onto the pavement. Choose water-based paints and wash brushes with water. Bag or compost leaves, minimize the use of toxic substances. Put dog wastes in the toilet or trash can. Keep litter off the street. These simple actions can help keep East Vincent Township’s water and wildlife healthy. To learn more about NPDES, visit www.eastvincent.org and click on “Stormwater.” If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Township Office or visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater.

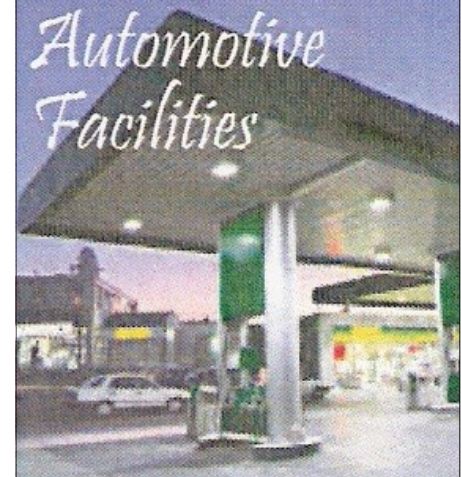
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East Vincent
Township

Fact Sheet



*Is Water
Quality Going
Down the
Drain In Your
Garage?*

Clean Water is Everybody's Business

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like buildings, driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and eventually, drinking water.

The effects of pollution:

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- ◆ Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. It also can destroy aquatic habitats.

- ◆ Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms cannot exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

- ◆ Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

- ◆ Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.

- ◆ Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor

oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

- ◆ Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS:

Automotive fluids like motor oil, fuel, antifreeze, transmission fluids, and degreasers are all toxic and hazardous to the environment. Uncovered fueling stations allow spills to be washed into storm drains. Cars waiting to be repaired can leak these and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater and carried to streams. Here are some simple tips you can take:

POLICY:

Develop a policy on pollution prevention for everyone to follow. Management can provide direction and support for pollution prevention by reviewing it with all employees and keeping the policy posted.

Keep a spill response plan on site and posted at all times. This should include the action steps to be taken, in addition to important spill response contact information.

Keep rags, damp mops and absorbent pads readily accessible. Dispose of waste properly.

Train employees as a team to prevent runoff and stormwater pollution. Employees should be trained in pollution prevention techniques, hazardous materials handling and storage, and spill response.

MATERIAL STORAGE:

Store all containers under cover to protect from rain and snow.

Cover fluid storage areas and be sure to secure and lock them.

SPILLS:

Never hose garage floors or driveways into the storm drain system. First, sweep regularly, then contain wash water and properly dispose of it.

Keep a spill kit appropriate for the materials you use handy and stocked, ready for use. Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials. Use absorbent material whenever possible.

CLEANERS AND SOLVENTS:

Read labels carefully and follow directions. Dispose of unused product properly, and follow appropriate cleanup practices.

Recycle and reuse cleaning fluids, oil, and oil filters where practical.

Label storm drains to remind employees that the outlets discharge to a local waterway.

Never pour liquids or dry materials down a storm drain.

Remind customers to check their vehicles for leaks regularly.

TRASH:

Prevent polluted runoff by covering all dumpsters and replace leaky ones.

Keep the area around the dumpsters free of trash.

Ensure trash is properly bagged before placing it in the dumpster.

Lastly, please remember to recycle. Recycling helps to save our environment. Only rain should go down the drain.

