



# HORSHAM TOWNSHIP

## Residential Stormwater Management

*Restoring Rains Reputation: What Everyone Can Do To Help!*

### WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water runoff from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called stormwater runoff.

### WHY IS STORMWATER "Good Rain Gone Wrong?"

Stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. Stormwater travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up stormwater systems. It eventually flows directly to a lake, river, stream, wetland, or coastal water. All of the pollutants stormwater carries along the way empty into our waters, too, because stormwater does not get treated.

This is why your assistance is needed to improve local water quality.

### WHAT RESIDENTS CAN HELP WATCH FOR:

- Sediment leaving a construction site in stormwater.
- Spills (chemical, gas, oil)
- Illegal dumping activity into streams or storm sewers (please call 911 first).
- Dry weather flow from outfall pipes to streams (72 hours after a rain storm)

To report spills, dumping or discharges of pollutants into the street, stormwater system or streams, contact the following:

Horsham Police at (215) 643-8284

Mark Hudson at (215) 643-3131

Email us at: [stormwater@horsham.org](mailto:stormwater@horsham.org)

For more information, visit our stormwater management web page:

[www.horsham.org/information/stormwater](http://www.horsham.org/information/stormwater)

Department of Environmental Protection  
(DEP) [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

### 10 Ways To Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:

- Conserve Water by stopping faucet drips
- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Pick up after your pet
- Sweep up driveways and sidewalks
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Plant gardens in bare spots
- Direct rooftop runoff to grass or gardens
- Check cars for leaks
- Wash cars at the car wash
- Compost your yard and organic wastes

### THINGS TO HELP LIMIT STORMWATER RUNOFF VOLUME

#### Install a Rain Garden

A rain garden is a planted shallow depression designed to catch and filter rainfall runoff. The garden captures rain from a downspout or a driveway. The water sinks into the ground, aided by deep rooted plants that like wet and dry conditions. A residential rain garden should dry out between rains and should only hold water for approximately 24 hours. This timeframe prevents standing water that could create mosquito habitat.



#### Install a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are installed at the bottom of your down-spouts and catch the rain water that comes off the roof. You can then reuse that water to water your garden or yard. Please try to empty your rain barrel between rain events to maximize the effectiveness of the rain barrel. You can either purchase your rain barrel from the Township or make your own.



#### Plant Trees and Shrubs

Planting trees, shrubs and/or plants that have a deep root structure help stormwater infiltrate into the ground. They also catch rain water on their leaves and branches which helps to reduce the amount of run-off during a storm.



### STORM DRAIN MARKERS

These markers educate and discourage anyone who may be looking to dump into the storm drain. Horsham Township has put storm drain markers on many of our storm drains.

If you know of any storm drains that are missing markers please email us their locations at: [stormwater@horsham.org](mailto:stormwater@horsham.org)

*Horsham Township maintains and improves the public drainage system for the protection of our community and the environment.*