

## Applying Herbicides & Pesticides



*Always follow label directions. Do not apply if rain is anticipated.*



*Avoid applying chemicals to plants along streams and do not wash application equipment near streams.*



*Keep products in original containers and dispose of empty containers properly.*



*Promptly clean up any chemical spills.*

## Watering / Mowing the Lawn & Garden



*Avoid over-watering the lawn or garden which creates runoff into surface waters.*



*Slow watering techniques to reduce runoff are more effective than sprinklers.*



*Adjust mower blades to 2 –3 inches high to control weeds and have healthy grass.*



*Leave clippings on ground to hold moisture and provide nutrients by decomposition.*

## Painting



*Do not allow liquid paint and wastes to drain into street and storm drains.*



*Choose water-based paints (such as latex) instead of oil-based paints.*



*Reuse leftover paints or save unused paint materials for disposal at our local household waste collection event.*

CAR-RT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 5  
Burlington, MA

Town of Burlington  
Department of Public Works  
Town Hall  
Burlington, MA 01803

Residential Customer for Burlington  
Burlington, MA 01803

## Managing Landscape Materials



*Composting leaves and grass clippings is easy and inexpensive.*



*Cover dirt or mulch piles to avoid rain washing materials into our storm sewer system.*



*Seed or mulch bare areas as soon as possible to prevent soil erosion.*



Printed on recycled paper

TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Storm Water  
Pollution  
Prevention  
for the Home



Prepared by  
Burlington Department of Public Works  
25 Center Street  
Burlington, MA 01803

## What is Storm Water Runoff?

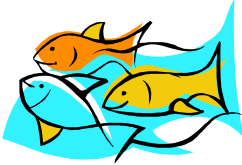
*In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets, and lawns is not absorbed.*



*The precipitation (called storm water or storm water runoff) enters local water bodies through our storm sewer system.*

## What is Storm Water Pollution?

*Polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of contamination entering our streams.*



*This discharge can destroy fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated drinking water supplies.*

*Storm water runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution.*










*Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints, and eroded soil may be pollutants when washed into our storm water system. Many types of litter can also create water pollution.*

## **Storm Water Pollution Prevention Tips What Can You Do?**

### General Information:

- Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes, or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains. If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it.*
- Buy only as much chemical as you need, and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage, and disposal.*
- Save unused waste chemicals for a local household hazardous waste collection event.*
- Pet waste contains harmful levels of bacteria. Never allow pet waste to wash into our streams.*
- Wash outdoor items with bio-degradable soap.*
- Use a garbage can for trash materials. Improperly discarded trash may be carried by runoff into the storm sewer.*
- Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. Allow drainage from the roof to flow over your lawn instead.*

## Maintaining Your Automobile

-  *Automobile fluids from leaks or maintenance are a source of water pollution. One quart of oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.*
-  *Have your car serviced regularly.*
-  *Do not pour discarded fluids into our storm drains or waterways.*
-  *Dispose of vehicle fluids properly.*
-  *Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze with kitty litter or other absorbent material. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams.*
-  *Be sure to collect all used oil and antifreeze into a proper container.*
-  *Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water.*

## Performing Yard Work

-  *Never dump grass clippings in or near our streams.*
-  *Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas.*
-  *Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscape projects.*
-  *Avoid excess use of fertilizers and pesticides.*