



Town of Orange, Connecticut Help Keep Our Waterways Clean



Orange waterways include The Housatonic River, Indian River, Oyster River, Race Brook, Trout Brook, Two-Mile River, Wepawaug River, Silver Brook, and Davis Brook, which all drain into Long Island Sound. The water that passes through the town's storm drain system - clean or not –also ends up in the Sound.

Did you Know?

Nearly everyone thinks water pollution is caused by industry. In the past, most of it was. But today, the #1 threat to streams, ponds, and rivers is untreated stormwater runoff. Much of this untreated, polluted runoff reaches our local waterways through storm drains. Eventually it reaches Long Island Sound.

What are storm drains?

Storm drains are found on town streets along the curb. They are on the side of major roads, bridges and highways as well as in parking lots. Storm drains are holes or openings, usually with a grate over them, leading to underground pipes that carry water, usually to a stream or pond and channel the runoff into a nearby water body.

What is runoff?

When rain falls or snow or ice melt, it either soaks into the ground and evaporates, or when the water meets hard (impervious) surfaces like roofs or paved parking lots, streets, and driveways, it flows as runoff, traveling down streets and gutters into storm drains - which carry it into nearby streams, ponds, and rivers.

How does runoff become polluted?

As water flows down streets and across parking lots and lawns it picks up pollutants such as-

- Yard trash like pet wastes, grass clippings, and leaves;
- Fluids that leak from cars and trucks like oil, gas, and antifreeze;
- Litter of all kinds, including plastic bags, waste paper, bottles, and cans;
- Fertilizers and pesticides; and
- Sand, salt, and soil from roads, unpaved driveways, or construction sites.

How does polluted runoff harm streams, rivers, and ponds?

Runoff is not treated. It carries pollution directly into storm drains, which lead to streams, rivers, and ponds. Storm drains throughout the region, including those in Orange, carry thousands of gallons of runoff. If pollutants like motor oil, gasoline, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, paints, and detergents reach the storm drains it travels straight into our waterways. Some people even dump trash and pollutants right into storm drains! The contaminants destroy the water's ecosystem, killing fish, frogs, and plant life making the water unsafe for us as well.



Dispose of pet waste properly



Check your car for *leaks*



Don't let *THIS*.....turn into *THIS*



What Can You Do?

Easy Ways You Can Help Keep Our Waterways Clean

- Use Less Fertilizer on your lawn
- Use fewer toxic pesticides less often
- Compost your yard waste
- Don't Litter
- Properly dispose of pet waste
- Recycle used motor oil and antifreeze
- Take hazardous household materials to authorized collection sites
<http://www.rwater.com/products-services/hazwaste-central> Or call 203-401-2712
- Wash your car on the lawn and use a vegetable based liquid soap—or bring it to the car wash
- Limit sand and salt use
- Help keep storm drains clear of debris
- Spread the word



You're
The
Solution
To
Water Pollution

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