

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is the water that flows off roofs, driveways, parking lots, streets and other hard surfaces during rain storms. Instead of infiltrating into the ground, it flows into storm drains. Most of the storm drains in the Wachusett watershed flow into streams and then into the Wachusett Reservoir, a public drinking water supply.

Stormwater runoff usually receives **NO TREATMENT** before entering waterways!



What is NPDES Phase II and what is its purpose?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a plan under the Clean Water Act to improve water quality in our surface waters. This plan is the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Currently, most towns within the Wachusett Reservoir watershed are faced with meeting water quality standards for stormwater runoff, and each is required to implement six minimum control measures to reduce the amount of pollutants entering into lakes and rivers.

For more information directly from the EPA:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swfinal.cfm>.

NPDES Phase II and Businesses

Most towns within the Wachusett Watershed are faced with meeting the EPA's Phase II requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (NPDES-MS4) Permit. A goal of these towns is to educate and raise public awareness so that local businesses can understand the important part they play in protecting our surface waters. By implementing good housekeeping practices, you will be doing your part to help provide clean, healthy drinking water to your neighbors as well as the 2.2 million Massachusetts residents who get their water from the Wachusett Reservoir.



Wachusett Reservoir Watershed
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection
180 Beaman Street
West Boylston, MA 01583
508-792-7806
www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm
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Stormwater Tips for the Business Community in the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed

*The Wachusett Reservoir
is only a storm drain
away.*

What goes in here ...



... comes out here.

Your business can reduce pollution, costs, and environmental liability by using the tips found in this brochure.

How Businesses Can Help

Landscaping:

- Don't fertilize or apply weed killer to lawn areas before rain and use sparingly.
- Use slow release natural fertilizers and low toxicity pest control products, if needed.
- Sweep or soak up spills on parking lots, driveways or sidewalks.
- Bag, mulch or compost lawn waste. Don't sweep leaves, grass clippings and other debris near or into storm drains or gutters.
- Control sprinkler runoff by watering only when necessary (lawns need only 1 inch of water per week), and aim sprinkler heads away from paved surfaces.
- Sweep sidewalks, parking lots, and driveways regularly instead of hosing them down.
- Control erosion. Stabilize exposed soil areas.



Building Care:

- Clean rain gutters frequently.
- Do not rinse paint cans, brushes, detergent pails or other cleaning containers on your driveway, parking lots, sidewalks, or the street.
- Aim roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain barrel or rain garden.

Business Vehicles:

- Take business vehicles to a car wash. If this isn't possible, use non-phosphate, biodegradable detergents and wash vehicles on a lawn.
- Dry up small spills of oil or antifreeze with absorbent materials such as sand and sweep up promptly.
- When maintaining vehicles, drain fluids into containers and seal them.
- Take used lubricants to a designated gas station or recycling center for disposal.



General Good Housekeeping:

- Apply sand and deicing chemicals sparingly and sweep as soon as possible.
- Keep stored materials covered.
- Regularly inspect and maintain storm drains, catch basins, and stormwater structures on your property if you are responsible for them.
- Make sure any outdoor lunch areas are free from trash.
- Check property regularly for litter.
- Empty dumpster on a regular basis to prevent overflow.
- Never put leaking containers in your dumpster, and never hose down the inside of the dumpster.
- Shovel and/or plow snow away from storm drains or wetlands where it will have a chance to filter through the soil during snowmelt.
- Consider using alternative environmentally friendly products.
- Stencil around storm drains to remind employees that they flow to surface waters. (DCR has stenciling kits available for loan by calling 508-792-7806 ext.231).

Stormwater Structures

Owners and operators of gasoline stations, auto repair shops, office parks and other commercial properties should be aware of the maintenance requirements of stormwater management structures located on their site. All stormwater structures, including detention basins, catch basins, storm drains, and oil/water separators require regular maintenance and inspection to perform properly and remove contaminants from stormwater as designed.