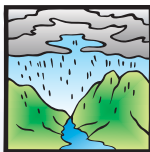


# What is a Watershed?



A watershed is an area of land that drains water above and below the ground into a specific body of water such as a stream, pond, lake, river or ocean.

Watershed boundaries are determined by the shape or contour of the land surrounding that body of water.

Delaware is divided into 4 large watershed basins, which include 45 sub-watersheds.

Delaware's basins include: the Piedmont in the North, the Delaware Estuary in the East, the Chesapeake Bay to the West, & the Inland Bays in the South-East.

The City of Dover is located in the St. Jones River watershed, which is part of the larger Delaware Estuary basin that drains into the Delaware River.



## What is Non-Point Source Pollution?

**Everything we do impacts our watershed.**

Non-point source pollution occurs when rainfall, snow melt or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picking up pollutants & depositing them into streams, rivers, lakes & coastal waters, or seeping into ground water. Non-point source pollution is from many places such as roads, lawns, parking lots, farms, golf courses, etc...

Small activities, such as home repair projects, lawn & garden care & washing our cars & dishes, collectively use a lot of water across our community. Our water use contributes small amounts of pollutants, which when combined, have a more serious impact on our waterways.

According to water quality research, the majority of Delaware's watersheds are polluted & in need of restoration. Together, everyone can help to protect and improve our waterways by adopting a few simple practices and tips!

## For More Information, Contact:

### Automotive Maintenance Waste Management:

**Delaware Solid Waste Management Authority (DSWA): 1-800-404-7080**

**Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control: Division of Waste & Hazardous Substances**

**89 Kings, Hwy., Dover, DE 19901,  
302-739-9400, Fax: 302-739-1894**

### Proper Waste Management for Home Repair:

**Delaware Solid Waste Management Authority (DSWA): 1-800-404-7080**

**Building Permits & Planning Issues: Dover  
Permitting & Licensing Division: 302-736-7011**

### Lawn Care and Landscaping:

**Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, Division of Waste & Hazardous Substances:  
Yard Waste: 302-739-9403, Fax: 302-739-5060**

**Nutrient Management Program at the Delaware  
Department of Agriculture: 302-698-4558**

**Planning Issues: Dover Planning Office:  
302-736-7196**



**City of Dover  
P.O. Box 475**

**Dover, DE 19903  
302-736-7196**

**[www.cityofdover.com](http://www.cityofdover.com)**



# Clean Water Begins...



## ..with You!

## A Citizen's Guide to Non-point Source Pollution & Best Management Practices

**Brought to you by the  
City of Dover, Delaware**



## Home Repair & Renovation:



Construction, home repair & renovation often involve the relocation of soil & sediments as well as the use of materials such as paints, solvents, adhesives & other toxic chemicals.

If we are not careful, these materials can make their way into storm drains and local waterways, making the water polluted & unhealthy for people, wildlife & other living organisms.



By following some simple tips, each of us can do our part to help prevent pollution & create a healthier community!

- ◆ Never dump anything that you wouldn't want to drink or swim in, onto the street, down a storm drain or into a drainage ditch.
- ◆ Keep construction debris, excess material & chemical sealants away from storm drains & gutters.
- ◆ Use a broom, instead of a hose to clean sidewalks & paved surfaces to prevent sediment runoff.
- ◆ When painting, use latex & low toxin paints.
- ◆ Properly dispose of or rinse used paint brushes & containers in a sink where wastewater will be treated. Do NOT rinse them in the street, gutters or storm drains.
- ◆ Use absorbent materials or rags to soak up spills & properly clean or dispose of them.
- ◆ Contact the DSWA at 1-800-404-7080 for more information.



## Automotive Maintenance & Care:

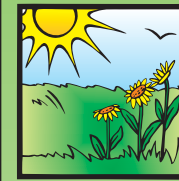
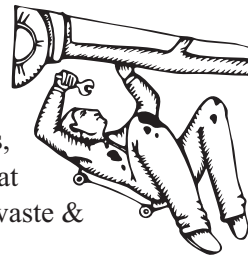


Vehicle care, maintenance and repair isn't just smart for your wallet, it's also helpful for the environment, protecting our local waterways & community health.

- ◆ When possible, use a car wash facility. Most car washes capture, treat and recycle their waste water.
- ◆ Wash your vehicle on the lawn instead of the driveway or street to prevent soapy, dirty water from washing into storm drains that flow into our local waterways.



- ◆ Use non-toxic cleaning products on your car. Baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps & chrome. Mix baking soda with a mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to clean rims & tires. For windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water. \*Bonus as a money saver!
- ◆ When repairing or maintaining a vehicle, use drip pans or collection containers & rags to prevent accidental spills & drips. Never allow car fluids to run into storm drains!
- ◆ Recycle used motor oil & filters at the nearest used oil collection center.
- ◆ Never mix used automotive fluids together. Keep them in separate containers with labels, sealed lids & dispose of them at designated automotive, solid waste & recycling facilities.
- ◆ Use absorbent materials or rags to clean & soak up spills & dispose of them in the trash. Never wash a garage floor, driveway or street to clean maintenance waste spilled fluids.
- ◆ Keep automotive fluids away from water & out of reach of children & pets.



## Landscaping & Lawn Care:

When using fertilizer for your lawn or garden, remember the **4 R's of Fertilizer Use**:

- ◆ **Right source:** Test the soil to determine any deficiencies - if fertilizer or other soil amendments, such as compost or organic material are needed.
- ◆ **Right rate:** Follow directions on the product
- ◆ **Right time:** Fall is the best time for fertilizer use
- ◆ **Right place:** Do not use fertilizer within 10 feet of waterways or right before it rains.

**The proper application of fertilizer is more important than the type of product.**



- ◆ Use native plants in garden & landscape designs
- ◆ When planting, group vegetation by similar water requirements.
- ◆ Install a rain barrel to reduce runoff from your roof & use the water for lawn and garden.
- ◆ When mowing, use a higher mowing setting, 2.5" to 3" to reduce water loss & compost grass clippings or leave the clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- ◆ When dealing with pests & other problems, research the most appropriate product & use pesticides sparingly.
- ◆ Compost or mulch garden & lawn waste.
- ◆ Remove lawn clippings from roads, driveways & sidewalks to prevent runoff into waterways.
- ◆ Spot treat pests & try mulching or other natural pest controls when possible.

