

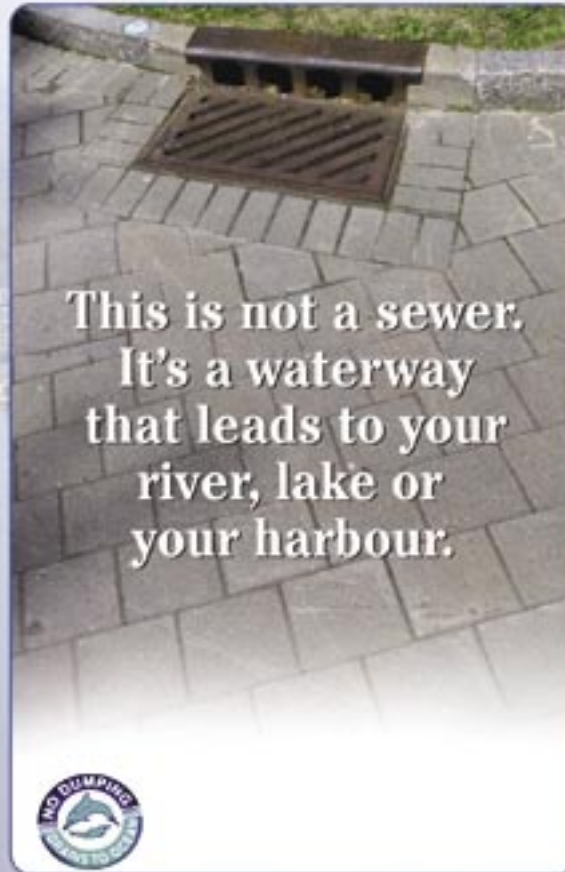
grease, oil, detergents, wax, heavy metals, hydrocarbons and other pollutants, which will be carried by the stormwater system directly to the nearest river, lake or our harbour.

- 💧 Please do not litter. Place trash and litter that can not be recycled or reused in trash cans.
- 💧 Sweep up yard trimmings and place with your compost instead of washing them into storm drains.
- 💧 Report any illegal dumping into the storm sewers in your community by contacting HRM's Pollution Prevention Office at 490-3684 or HRM's Call Centre at 490-4000.



If you would like more information regarding HRM's Pollution Prevention (P2) Program or to report illegal dumping, please contact the Pollution Prevention Office at 490-3684 or visit [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca).

## Pollution Prevention Program



**Please don't pollute.**

**Remember,  
Only Rain in the  
Storm Drain.**

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## Preventing Stormwater Pollution:

A Guide for Residents of Halifax Regional Municipality

**Our Rivers**

**Our Lakes**

**Our Harbour**

**Our Community**

**Our Environment**

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## What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. It seeps into the ground or drains into storm sewers, which are the drains you see at street corners, along the sides of roads or in parking lots.

## Where Does the Water in the Storm Drains on Our Streets Go?

It picks up pollutants from our streets, roads and yards and goes for the most part unfiltered and untreated to the nearest stream, river, or lake where we swim and fish or directly to our harbour. These pollutants may include vehicle fluids, cooking grease, solvents, pet waste, fertilizers and paint.

Too often, we discover that individuals have disposed many of these pollutants into storm drains or onto the roadways throughout our communities. If they end up in our rivers and lakes they may harm the aquatic life in these receiving waters. This may even result in beach closures or make fish or shellfish unsafe to eat.

Disposal of waste material into the storm sewer is prohibited by the Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law W-101 and is harmful to the environment!

## What is the Solution to Stormwater Pollution?

The solution to stormwater pollution is having each of us in HRM doing what we can to reduce the impact from our homes, yards, schools and places of business. If we each act responsibly in the handling and disposal of our waste chemicals and other matter, we can positively affect our environment. The best way to reduce the risk of polluting our freshwater resources and our harbour is to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain in the first place.

## Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution:

Residents can dispose of hazardous products such as paint, solvents and vehicle fluids properly by taking them to the Household Hazardous Waste

Depot at 50 Chain Lake Drive, Bayer's Lake Business Park. Never dispose of these wastes down the storm drain.

- 💧 Use fertilizers sparingly and refrain from using them before a rain event. Do not wash them onto the street and into the nearest storm drain.
- 💧 Pick up after your pets. Pet waste carries numerous bacteria, which may enter the storm sewer system and ultimately end up in our rivers, lakes and our harbour. Please dispose of pet waste by flushing it down your toilet or double bag it and dispose of it with your regular garbage collection.
- 💧 When changing car fluids, use a drip pan to collect any spills. If a spill occurs, soak it up using an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sawdust and sweep up when finished.
- 💧 Use a commercial car wash instead of washing your car in the driveway. The dirty water from your car may contain