



Stormwater and Pollution

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns washing pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution.

We see it during every storm

- automotive fluids creating a colored sheen mixed with rain or snowmelt on parking lots, trash, cigarette butts, animal waste, and lawn fertilizers / pesticides washed into storm drains.

You Can Identify a Storm Sewer...

by the grated drains found along roadways and within some swale areas. They collect excess stormwater from rain and snowmelt that does not soak into the ground, and convey it to streams, rivers, and other local waterbodies.



The Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

A partnership to protect water quality

A number of communities and entities within Monroe County have joined together to develop a stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. The goal of the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County is to utilize regional collaboration to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution. The Coalition meets monthly to work collectively on developing and implementing a stormwater management program that complies with New York State's Phase II Stormwater Regulations.



Active members of the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County and their contact information can be found at the link below:

<https://www.stormwatercoalition.com/members>



Pools, Fountains, and Spas...

The Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County & You, *Protecting Water Quality*



Draining Pools, Fountains, and Spas

- Drain your pool, fountain or spa only when a tested sample does not detect chlorine.
- **Do not drain pools, fountains or spas down a driveway or to a storm sewer.** Instead, drain slowly to the lawn or other landscaped area of your property using a low volume pump or siphon.
- Be aware of drainage patterns that may affect neighboring properties, especially steep slopes.
- Winterize your pool by waiting for chlorine levels to be close to zero, drain your pool as described above and then add your winter treatment chemicals. Draining first reduces the amount of chemicals needed and saves money. Mix the chemicals in your pool by using a skimmer pole and brush attachment.



For other water quality questions visit the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County online at:

www.stormwatercoalition.com

Thank you for helping preserve and protect water quality in Monroe County.

Pool Backwashing

Pool backwashing is the most common maintenance activity. Backwash water can become a pollutant to our stormwater system, and draining to a storm sewer or water body is illegal if the water contains chemicals. Some basic practices to prevent pool backwash chemicals, as well as fountain and spa wastewaters, from entering a water body include:

- Backwash water should drain into the lawn or other landscaped area of your property. Draining slowly will allow chemicals to dissipate and prevent erosion.
- Never drain backwash into a stream, creek, pond, or other natural water body.
- Do not drain backwash water into the storm sewer.
- Do not drain backwash onto driveways, sidewalks, streets or other impervious surfaces.
- All wastewater from acid washing should be neutralized to pH between 6.0 and 7.0 and discharged to the lawn or sanitary sewer.
- Dispose of diatomaceous earth (DE) in the garbage.

Wastewater Discharge from Pools, Fountains, and Spas

Although it is perfectly safe to enjoy Pools, Fountains and Spas when their waters are treated properly, that same water in our stormwater system can become hazardous for aquatic life and our environment. Chlorine, acid, algaecides and other water treatment chemicals should be handled, stored, used and disposed of properly. Even the empty containers need proper cleaning before disposal.

Using Water Treatment Chemicals

When using water treatment chemicals in pools, fountains and spas:

- Purchase only the amount of chemical needed to do the job. Store in a place in a covered, yet well ventilated area.
- Thoroughly read all information provided on chemical container labels.
- Triple rinse all chemical containers, each time pouring the rinse water back into the pool, fountain or spa. Containers can then be safely recycled or disposed.
- Dispose of old or unwanted chemicals only at a Household Hazardous Waste facility. In Monroe County call 753-7600 to schedule an appointment for disposal.