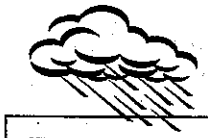
In Summary

Pet waste can contain bacteria, parasites, organic matter and nutrients. When left on the ground, rain or melting snow can wash these pollutants into a storm drain. These materials ca degrade local waters when allowed to flow into our storm drain system. Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant. This water ultimately flows into our creeks and tributaries.

In addition, if you are caught allowing anything but rain into the storm drain, you could be subject to severe penalties and/or fines, plus the cost of clean up

We need to stop Stormwater pollution at the source



Remember:

Only Rain In the Storm Drain

Contact Information

To report a spill any time call the City of Haverhill Emergency Dispatch at **978-373-1212.**

For waste disposal and recycling questions call Health & Inspectional Services **978-374-2325.**

For General Stormwater program information during normal business hours contact the Storm Water Program Coordinator at **978-374-2382**

To report suspicious behavior regarding Stormwater call **978-374-2334** or visit at: http://www.ci.haverhill.ma.us/departments/stormwater/index.htm

The City of Haverhill

4 Summer Street

Haverhill, MA 01830

Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet

PET WASTE

This brochure has been prepared to educate pet owners about environmentally sound pet waste disposal practices in order to protect the water quality in storm drains, and ultimately, the creeks and tributaries in Haverhill.

Why should I care about Stormwater?

This brochure is intended to educate pet owners about environmentally sound pet waste disposal practices, which minimize the potential for storm water and water

quality degradation.

Water that flows into the storm sewer system does not get treated at the waste water treatment plant It flows through a series of pipes and discharges either directly or indirectly into our creeks and tributaries. To minimize the potential for water quality problems, we need to work together to clean up our Stormwater at the source.

Before you allow anything to flow into a storm drain, stop and think about how the water ultimately flows untreated into the creeks and tributaries in Haverhill.

Waste Disposal

When walking your dog, always carry a plastic bag with you to pick up your pet's waste. Pet waste in water decomposes and takes a lot of oxygen from the water. This deprives plants and animals of necessary oxygen and they can die.

Pet waste (not the disposal bag or kitty litter) can be flushed down the toilet since it goes to the sewerage treatment plant or a septic system, which should remove most pollutants before discharging occurs.

Pet waste can be buried in the yard by digging a hole at least 6 inches deep away from gardens, water bodies, or play areas. The soil microorganisms help to break down and digest the waste. Do not put waste on the garden or compost pile.

Although not an ideal solution, you can throw the pet waste away in the trash. However, this waste than takes up space in the landfill.

Pet Care

Wash pets indoors in a bathtub or sink or consider having them professionally groomed. Pet shampoos and soaps, even when biodegradable can be toxic to animals or humans. Avoid washing pet outdoors where runoff may flow into a storm drain.

If indoor washing is not possible, then at least wash pets on a grassy or vegetated area. The vegetation acts as a filter and traps pollutants in the top layer of soil, preventing them from traveling to a water body.

Consider using alternative flea control products such as oral or tropical products. If shampoos, sprays or collars are used, dispose of unused quantities properly.