

**CLEAN WATER PLEDGE**  
Watertown Residents (and neighbors)  
**Stormwater Runoff Management**

**Stormwater** is rain or snowmelt that runs off streets, lawns, rooftops, parking lots, and other surfaces. As it flows into our local ponds or the Charles River, either directly or through the storm drains. Along the way, it picks up all sorts of pollutants — lawn fertilizer, leaves, grass cuttings, pesticides, chemicals, bacteria from animal wastes, oil, and grease.

**Much of Watertown's runoff goes into the storm drains  
and then — unfiltered — into the Charles River.**

From Watertown, 27 outfalls (ends of storm drain pipes) discharge into the Charles River.  
We all play a role in keeping our stormwater clean. Take the Pledge!

**Pledge: I make the following commitment on behalf of my household:**

- We won't dump anything down the storm drains — including cleaning solutions, motor oil, paint thinners, or anything other than clean water.
- We won't blow or sweep stuff from the yard or sidewalk (leaves, grass cuttings, etc.) into the street, where rain will wash it into the storm drains.
- In fact, we'll pick up any street litter around our place so it won't make its way into storm drains.
- We'll walk our dog in grassy areas and always pick up after our pet.
- We'll check our car for leaks and fix any right away.
- We'll wash our car at a car wash or on the grass instead of on the street or driveway, where dirty, soapy water would flow into the storm drains.
- We'll direct downspouts away from paved areas and toward vegetated areas or a rain barrel.
- We'll plant vegetation in bare spots in our yard to prevent erosion and increase absorption.
- We'll compost our yard waste.
- We'll minimize fertilizers (and only use fertilizers with 0.67% available phosphate by weight).
- If we have to pave (like a driveway or patio), we'll try using materials that let rain soak through (permeable asphalt, pavers, gravel, etc.).

*Call the Watertown Health Department at 617-979-6446 and register to dispose of any toxic waste at the Minuteman Hazardous Products Regional Facility.*

—WatertownStormwater.org