



What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground.

In a forest, meadow, or other natural area, stormwater soaks into the ground and naturally filters through the soil.

When forests and meadows are developed, they are replaced with neighborhoods, shopping centers, and other areas that introduce impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, parking lots, and driveways.

Impervious surfaces prevent rain or melting snow from soaking into the ground. This creates excess stormwater runoff and stormwater pollution.

Why is Stormwater a Problem?

Excess stormwater runoff and the pollutants that it carries can cause many different problems including flooding, erosion, and water pollution. This can make the water unhealthy for fish and other animals to live in and unsafe for us to swim and play in.

What is Soak? up the rain NH

Soak up the Rain (SOAK) New Hampshire is a voluntary program with the goal of protecting and restoring clean water in our local lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, and estuaries.

Working with local organizations, SOAK assists home and property owners to:

- Determine if a property is creating stormwater runoff that may be impacting nearby surface waters.
- Make recommendations and a plan for simple improvements including low-cost, do-it-yourself stormwater practices like the ones described in the *New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*.

Want to Learn More?

Find out more about how you can soak up the rain at:

www.soaknh.org

or email jillian.mccarthy@des.nh.gov

Soak UP the Rain.

New Hampshire

YOUR LAND
YOUR WATER
YOUR SOLUTION



Soak UP the Rain.

NEW HAMPSHIRE



Photo source: Think Blue Maine

Pollution in stormwater is the primary cause of water contamination in New Hampshire

All of our homes have the potential to create stormwater runoff. This is because roofs, driveways, and even lawns can prevent rain water from soaking into the ground. The *New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management* was created for homeowners to learn the simple things that can be done to reduce the impacts of stormwater from our homes, while improving our properties at the same time.

Simple activities such as picking up pet waste, minimizing fertilizer use, and maintaining septic systems can reduce water pollution. Do-it-yourself stormwater practices like rain barrels, dry wells, infiltration trenches, and rain gardens can be built to further protect clean and healthy water.

Find out more about how you can soak up the rain at www.soaknh.org.

Stormwater and Your Home: Where does it come from?

Extra water that would naturally soak into the ground comes from:

- Roofs
- Driveway and Walkways
- Decks and Patios
- Other hard surfaces

Stormwater carries pollutants that can harm our lakes, streams, estuaries, and other waters. These pollutants can come from:

- Eroding soils
- Fertilizers and lawn chemicals
- Pet waste
- Trash and debris

What can you do to help reduce stormwater pollution?

- Install a rain barrel, rain garden, dry well, or other DIY stormwater practice to reduce the amount of stormwater your property creates.
- Use good housekeeping practices, like applying less fertilizer, sweeping your driveway, and picking up after your pets to reduce stormwater pollutants.
- Get involved with a local SOAK group in your community to help reduce stormwater pollution and keep local lakes and streams healthy and clean.
- Don't have a local group? Visit www.soaknh.org or Contact NHDES to see how you can get involved.

YOUR LAND. YOUR WATER. YOUR SOLUTION.