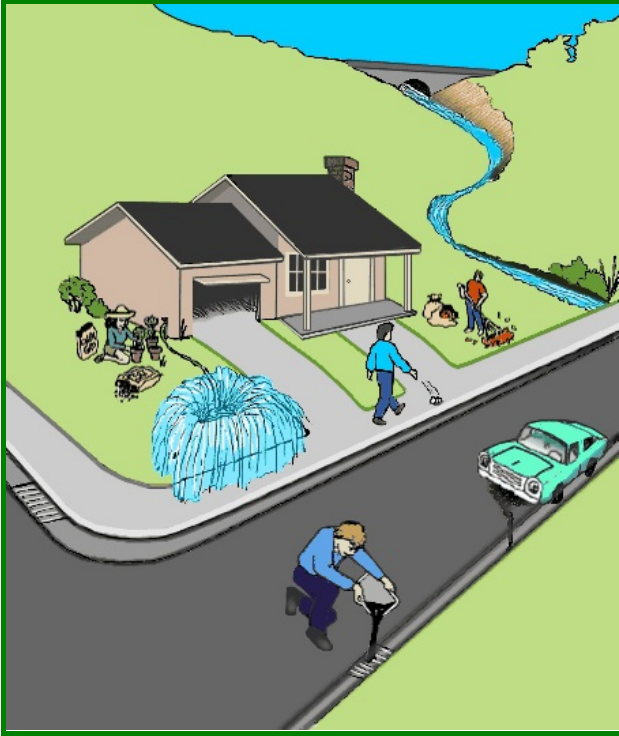


# WHAT IS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

(NJ Department of Environmental Protection)



Nonpoint source pollution, or people pollution, is a contamination of our ground water, waterways and ocean that results from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, changing motor oil and littering. With each rainfall, pollutants generated by these activities are washed into storm drains that flow into our waterways and ocean. They also can soak into the ground contaminating the ground water below.

Each one of us contributes to nonpoint source pollution through our daily activities. As a result, nonpoint source pollution is the **BIGGEST** threat to many of our ponds, creeks, lakes, wells, streams, rivers and bays, our ground water and the ocean.

But there's good news - in our everyday activities we can stop nonpoint source pollution and keep our environment clean. Simple changes in **YOUR** daily lifestyle can make a tremendous difference in the quality of our water resources. You can reduce nonpoint source pollution:

**LITTER.** Place litter, including cigarette butts and fast food containers, in trash receptacles. Never throw litter in streets or down storm drains. Recycle as much as possible.

**FERTILIZERS.** Avoid the overuse of fertilizers and do not apply them before a heavy rainfall.

**PESTICIDES.** Use natural alternatives whenever possible. If you do use a pesticide, follow the label directions carefully.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS** are not discarded with the regular household trash. Visit the Mercer County Improvement Authority at [www.mcia-nj.com](http://www.mcia-nj.com) for information regarding household hazardous waste collection in your municipality.

**MOTOR OIL.** Do not dump used motor oil down storm drains or on the ground. Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a local public or private recycling center.

**CAR WASHING.** Wash your car only when necessary. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles its wash water. If you wash your car at home, use a non-phosphate detergent.

**PET WASTE.** Pet owners should use newspaper, bags or scoopers to pick up after pets. Dispose of animal waste in the garbage or toilet.

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS.** Avoid adding unnecessary grease, hazardous products and solids to your septic system. Inspect your tank annually and pump it out at least every three years depending on its use.

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**WEST WINDSOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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