

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### Borough of Spring Lake Water and Sewer Utility

#### For the Year 2021, Results from the Year 2020

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. We have three wells and we purchase water from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Manasquan Reservoir Water Supply System. Our wells draw their water from the Englishtown Aquifer and are approximately 700 feet deep. The Manasquan Water Treatment Plant, located on Hospital Road in the Allenwood section of Wall Township, is owned by the Monmouth County Improvement Authority and is operated by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. The Manasquan Water Treatment Plant takes its water from the Manasquan River in Wall Township and the Manasquan Reservoir in Howell Township.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at [YWW.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://YWW.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system to obtain information regarding your water system's Source Water Assessment. The source water susceptibility ratings and a list of potential contaminant sources for these water systems is included.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The Spring Lake Borough Water and Sewer Utility and the Manasquan Water Supply System routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Spring Lake Borough Test Results						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants:</b>						
Combined Radium 228 & 226 Test results Yrs. 2018 & 2020	N	Range = 1.5 - 3.39 Highest detect = 3.39	pCi/l	0	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Test results Yrs. 2018 & 2020	N	Range = ND - 3.39 Highest detect = 3.39	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Copper Test results Yr. 2018 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.1 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test results Yr. 2018 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	ND No samples exceeded the action level.	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 0.4 - 0.5 Highest detect = 0.5	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants:</b>						
Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA) Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = ND - 2.4 Highest detect = 2.4 Highest average = 0.5	ppt	N/A	13	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers
<b>Disinfection Byproducts:</b>						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 17 - 81 Highest LRAA = 52	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 12 - 35 Highest LRAA = 29	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Regulated Disinfectants</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>		<b>MRDL</b>		<b>MRDLG</b>
Chlorine Test results Yr. 2020		Range = 0.6 - 1.0 ppm Average = 0.9 ppm		4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm

Chlorine: Water additive used to control microbes.

HAA5 and TTHM compliance is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA), calculated at each monitoring location. The LRAA calculation is based on four completed quarters of monitoring results.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please call 732-904-5943. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings at Borough Hall, Fifth and Warren Aves. Meetings are held every other Monday at 8:00 p.m.

Secondary Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	RUL
Sodium	35 - 58	ppm	50
Test results Yr. 2018			

We slightly exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) for Sodium at one of our wells. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Secondary Contaminant: Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) – Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RUL's are recommendations, not mandates.

Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Borough of Spring Lake Water & Sewer Utility and the Manasquan Water Supply System are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 second to 2 minutes before using water for drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## DEFINITIONS

In the "Test Results" tables you may find some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanogram per liter - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 20,000 years, or a single penny in \$100,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal -The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Secondary Contaminant: Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) – Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RUL's are recommendations, not mandates.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) - We are required to remove a certain percentage of (TOC) from our drinking water on a monthly basis. Total Organic Carbon has no adverse health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts.

Turbidity -- A measure of the particulate matter or "cloudiness" of the water. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring:** The Borough of Spring Lake Water & Sewer Utility monitored for the following unregulated contaminants in 2020. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and NJDEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are widely found in the environment. EPA has identified a health advisory level for two PFAS analytes, PFOA and PFOS 0.070 ppb either singly or combined, and NJDEP has adopted new drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)) for PFOA and PFOS of 14 ng/L (ppt) and 13 ng/L (ppt) respectively, as of January 2021. The detected levels of PFOA and PFOS found are below DEP's MCLs.

Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	Likely source
(PFOS) Perfluorooctane Sulfonate	Range = ND – 3.2	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
(PFOA) Perfluorooctanoic Acid	Range = ND – 4.5	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.

#### What are PFOA and PFOS?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), previously referred to as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs, that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS was previously used as a major ingredient in aqueous film forming foams for firefighting and training, and PFOA and PFOS are found in consumer products such as stain resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water resistant outdoor clothing, and grease proof food packaging. Although the use of PFOA and PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are soluble and mobile in water. More information can be found at:

[https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs\\_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-4003\).pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-4003).pdf)

#### Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Cryptosporidium is usually removed through the filtration process and inactivated by other treatment processes such as ozonation. In order to check for the presence of Cryptosporidium, the USEPA issued the Long-Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule in January 2006. As part of this rule, the Manasquan System began monthly sampling and testing for Cryptosporidium in October 2016 and this testing continued through its completion in September 2018. The sample results did not show any presence of Cryptosporidium.

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring:** The Manasquan Water Supply monitored for the following unregulated contaminants in 2020. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and NJDEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are widely found in the environment. EPA has identified a health advisory level for two PFAS analytes, PFOA and PFOS 0.070 ppb either singly or combined, and NJDEP has adopted new drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)) for PFOA and PFOS of 14 ng/L (ppt) and 13 ng/L (ppt), respectively as of 2021. The detected levels of PFOA and PFOS found are below DEP's MCLs.

Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	Likely source
(PFOS) Perfluorooctane Sulfonate	Range = 3.5 – 5.1	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
(PFOA) Perfluorooctanoic Acid	Range = 4.8 – 5.9	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
(PFHxS) Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid	2.1	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
(PFHxA) Perfluorohexanoic Acid	2.6	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
Saxitoxin	0.084	ppb	Algae

Manasquan Water Supply 2020 Test Results PWSID # NJ1352005						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measure- ment	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants:</b>						
Turbidity	N	Range = 0.02 – 0.13 100% < 0.3 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT 95% of monthly samples < 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
Total Organ Carbon (TOC)	N	Range = 21 - 54 Avg. Removal = 37%	%	N/A	TT 35% - 45% removal	Soil runoff
Bromate	N	Range = Nd – 6 Highest detect = 6	ppb	< 1.3	10	Reaction of bromide with ozone used in treatment process
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Copper Test results 1 <sup>st</sup> ½ of 2020 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.22 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Test results 2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ of 2020 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.10 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test results 1 <sup>st</sup> ½ of 2020 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.5 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppb	0	Al=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test results 2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ of 2020 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.3 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppb	0	Al=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	0.03	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	N	1.0	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride	N	Range = 0.06 – 0.1 Highest detect = 0.1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel	N	2.5	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.48	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts:</b>						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	N	16.7	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	N	14.2	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants:</b>						
PFNA Perfluorononanoic Acid	N	Range = 2.0 – 3.2 Highest detect = 3.2	ppt	N/A	13	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.

<b>Regulated Disinfectants</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>MRDL</b>	<b>MRDLG</b>
Chlorine	Range = 0.5 – 1.8 ppm Average = 1.2 ppm	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm

**Chlorine:** Water additive used to control microbes

**Please note:** The New Jersey Water Supply Authority is not responsible for lead testing within the customer communities. Consult the Consumer Confidence Report of your community water system for lead results. The lead results in the table above are from faucets at the buildings on the Water Treatment facilities property. Lead and copper levels were detected in some samples taken at the water treatment plant and tested in 2020. The NJWSA adds a corrosion control chemical and adjusts the pH of the water leaving the Water Treatment plant in order to improve the corrosivity of the water and to achieve the regulatory level for these chemical elements.

### **Borough of Spring Lake - PWSID # NJ1348001**

Borough of Spring Lake is a public community water system consisting of 3 wells.

This system's source water comes from the following aquifer: Englishtown Aquifer System

This system can purchase water from the following water systems: Belmar Water Department, NJ Water Supply Authority, Spring Lake Heights Water Department

### **Susceptibility Ratings for Borough of Spring Lake Sources**

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
Sources	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 3			3			3			3			3		3				3			3		3	

### **NJ Water Supply Authority – Manasquan Water Supply System - PWSID # NJ1352005**

NJ Water Supply Authority - Manasquan System is a public community water system consisting of 2 surface water intakes.

This system's source water comes from the following surface water bodies: Manasquan Reservoir, Manasquan River

### **Susceptibility Ratings for NJ Water Supply Authority - Manasquan Water Supply System Sources**

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
Sources	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Surface water intakes - 2	2				2			2			2			2				2			2	2		

**Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

**Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

**Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

**Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

**Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

**Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rwp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.

**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

## Simple Tips to Help You Conserve Water INSIDE Your Home

[View Video of simple tips to help you conserve water inside your home](#)

Here are some tips for saving water and money in the bathroom ...

- Update your shower with a low-flow showerhead and save up to 7,665 gallons and up to \$50 per year.
  - Cut down the time you spend in the shower to 5 minutes ... and remember the suggestion of switching from baths to 5-minute showers and save 76,650 gallons and up to \$498 per year.
  - Replace that old water guzzling toilet with a WaterSense low-flow version and save 10,986 gallons and up to \$70 per year.
  - Get your family to turn the water off while brushing their teeth and save up to 11,680 gallons and up to \$75 per year.
  - Update your faucet or attach an inexpensive faucet aerator to your existing one and save 15,622 gallons and up to \$100 per year.
  - Fix a constantly running toilet and save up to \$480 per year.
  - Install a Gate Tube Toilet Water Saver in your toilet tank and save up to 7,300 gallons and up to \$144 per year off your water and sewer bill...
- homes with wells and septic systems may significantly reduce the load and demand of the well and septic field.

For the kitchen ...

- Only wash dishes when the dishwasher is full and save up to 2,920 gallons and up to \$19 per year.
- Replace the old dishwasher with a new high-efficiency model and save up to 1,314 gallons and up to \$8 per year.
- Use a faucet aerator and change to a low-flow faucet when possible and save up to 15,622 gallons and up to \$100.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet until the water is cold.

And in the laundry room ...

- Upgrade to a high efficiency clothes washer and save up to 14,585 gallons and up to \$94 per year.
- Wash only full loads of clothing by adding until the washer is full and save up to 10,534 gallons and up to \$68 per year.
- Adjust the water setting level to correspond with the size of the wash load.

These few tips add up to more than 167,000 gallons and up to approximately \$1,500 a year for the family to save;

and enjoy.

*\*Calculations for water and money savings are based on estimated water use for a family of four with a water rate of \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons. Note: Water rates vary around the State.*

More Indoor Water Saving Tips:

- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin and not under running water
- Do not defrost frozen food under running water; instead thaw in the refrigerator overnight
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal
- Take care of household leaks and save up to 10% on your water bill
- To detect leaks, check your water meter before and after two hours of no water use

## Simple Tips to Help You Conserve Water OUTSIDE Your Home

[Video of simple tips to help you conserve water outside your home](#)

Here are some tips for saving water and money while watering lawns and landscapes...

- Only water when needed. New Jersey landscapes need approximately one inch of water a week ... most of which often comes from natural rainfall
- Water flowers with rain collected from your roof with a barrel connected to your gutter downspout
- Use 30-50% less water with drip irrigation and micro-sprays compared to sprinklers
- If you have an irrigation system, get a system audit done by an irrigation specialist who is certified as a USEPA WaterSense Partner

Here are some tips for saving water and money in the Garden:

- Use native plants that survive best in local conditions, and group plants together based on water need
- Choose drought-tolerant grass varieties such as tall fescues
- Mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and water-consuming weeds
- Cut back on lawn areas and increase the size of low water using and native plant garden beds.

Here are some tips for saving water and money while doing household chores:

- Wash the car with a bucket, or use a commercial car wash that recycles water
- When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches to promote deeper roots and root system shade that holds soil moisture best
- Don't over fertilize lawns as they need more water to survive
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them off

Here are some tips for saving water and money during recreational times:

- Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water
- If you have a pool, remember to purchase a water-saving filter
- Cover your pool to reduce evaporation when not in use

More Outdoor Water Saving Tips:

- You are over watering when puddles are forming on the landscape or in the street
- Do not water during the heat of the day - water in the early morning hours or early evening hours to reduce evaporation
- Save water and reduce diseases by watering the root zone instead of the foliage
- Water deeply, less frequently for a deeper, healthier root system
- Refer to these manuals for more ideas:
  - [Conserving Water on Home Lawns and Landscapes in New Jersey](#)
  - [Landscaping for Water Conservation](#)
  - [Low Maintenance Landscaping \(pdf\)](#)
- Add organic matter to the soil to improve water and nutrient-holding capacity for healthier plants
- Use dehumidifier and air-conditioner condensation to water your plants

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

*Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water*

## A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

**P**ollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings. You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

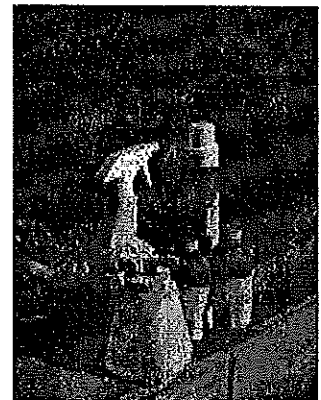
As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



**As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.**

### Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.



Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

### Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.

- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.

- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.

- Recycle used motor oil.

- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.



## Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.

- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

## Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.

- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.

- Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law. And remember to:

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.

- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.

- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.



## Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles.

- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.

- Participate in community cleanups.

## Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.

- If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them.

- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.

- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.



## Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.

- Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

## Contact information

For more information on stormwater-related topics, visit [www.njstormwater.org](http://www.njstormwater.org) or [www.nonpointsource.org](http://www.nonpointsource.org).

Additional information is also available at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites: [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater) or [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps).

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Water Quality  
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control  
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program  
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[www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org)

