



# The Monmouth County Board of Health

**Robert Peters**  
President

3435 HIGHWAY 9  
FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY 07728-1255

TELEPHONE (732) 431-7456  
FAX (732) 409-7579

**Michael A. Meddis, M.P.H.**  
Public Health Coordinator  
And  
Health Officer

## Stormwater Runoff Advisory

Stormwater runoff can cause health standards to be exceeded for recreational uses in streams, estuaries, and the ocean.

The Health Department recommends that you avoid contact with water near flowing stormwater outfall pipes, streams, and wetlands; and when water becomes muddy from resuspended sediments.

Levels of bacteria can rise significantly in water bodies from storm drains, streams, wetlands, and sediments, especially during and after rainfall. The current version of the Public Recreational Bathing regulations (Chapter 9 of the State Sanitary Code) only authorizes that signs be posted at lifeguarded beaches when they are closed for bathing  
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/recbathing.pdf> .

Stormwater pollution is a form of nonpoint pollution that comes from everyday activities such as over fertilizing lawns, littering, changing motor oil and overuse of pesticides.

This is not a new issue. Some possible sources include pet and wildlife waste, sewer lines connected to storm drains, leaking septic tanks, and dumpster leachate. Even wildlife waste causes bacteria levels to rise significantly from streams and wetlands during and after rainfall.

Residents can assist in the effort to reduce stormwater loading by remembering that what they do at home can affect the water. Oil, pet waste or grass clippings that enter storm drains eventually end up in the estuary or ocean without being treated.

### **Residents should:**

Construct a Rain Garden to reduce the volume of stormwater discharged from your property. This will reduce the size of the area impacted stormwater plumes and reduce the total amount of bacteria discharged from outfalls into receiving water bodies. A Rain Garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that allows rainwater and snowmelt to be collected and seep naturally into the ground. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County has a Rain Garden demonstration project at 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold (732-431-7260)

<http://www.co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/57/Rain%20Garden%20Demonstration%20Brochure.pdf>

Keep leaves, grass clippings and fertilizers away from storm drains. The best idea is not to fertilize an established lawn. But if you do, use as little lawn fertilizer as possible.

Clean up after pets to reduce pet waste getting to the river through storm drains.

Dispose of household hazardous waste (paint, motor oil, etc.) properly. The MC Household Hazardous Waste Facility on Shafto Road, Route 547, Tinton Falls, manages the disposal of household hazardous materials such as paint, pesticides, etc. To schedule an appointment or to learn more about the facility, please call 732-922-2234.

<http://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.asp?agency=121&ID=2258>

## **WATER QUALITY INFORMATION**

Contact the Municipal Office to find out which beaches are open with lifeguards. Water quality information for those beaches can be found here:

- Monmouth County Health Department
  - <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.asp?agency=121&ID=2343>
- NJ Department of Environmental Protection
  - [www.njbeaches.org](http://www.njbeaches.org)
- Earth 911
  - [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

## **LINKS TO OTHER STORMWATER ADVISORIES**

- Monmouth County Regional Health Commission
  - <http://www.mcrhc.org/advisory-stormwater.html>
- Ocean County Health Department
  - <http://www.ochd.org/waterSamples.aspx>
- NJ Department of Environmental Protection
  - [http://www.njstormwater.org/tier\\_A/pdf/PetwasteBW.pdf](http://www.njstormwater.org/tier_A/pdf/PetwasteBW.pdf)