

What is MS4?

MS4 is commonly known as
“Municipal Separate Storm Sewer
Systems.”



MS4 is a system of conveyances including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains.



Upper Allen Township



100 Gettysburg Pike
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone 717-766-0756

Fax 717-79-9833

Email www.uatwp.org

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Monday - Friday



Preventing Polluted Stormwater: A Guide for Residents



Upper Allen Township
MS4 Department



Residential Causes of Stormwater Pollution

As stormwater runs over driveways, lawns and sidewalks it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Polluted stormwater runoff is often conveyed to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged into the water bodies we use for recreation and providing drinking water.



Polluted stormwater runoff can cause various issues:



Polluted Discharges



Flooding

What You Can Do

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Check or repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



Lawn and Garden

- Do not overwater your lawn.
- Utilize pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.



Septic Systems



- Inspect your septic system at least every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (typically every 3 to 5 years).
- Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.
- Flush responsibly

Pet waste

- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method.
- If flushing down the toilet is not a viable option, put the pet waste in the trash, but never put waste into storm drains.



Landscaping Solutions

Permeable Pavement-Traditional concrete and asphalt don't allow water to soak into the ground. Permeable pavement systems allow rain and snow-melt to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff.

Rain Barrels-You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.



Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales- Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground.

Vegetated Filter Strips-Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.