

## Stormwater and Pollution

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from roof-tops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns — washing pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution.

## You Can Identify a Storm Sewer

by the grated drains found along roadways and within some low-lying and seasonally wet (swale) areas. They collect excess stormwater from rain and snowmelt that does not soak into the ground, and convey it to streams, rivers, and other local waterbodies.

## We See It During Every Storm —

automotive fluids creating a colored sheen mixed with rain or snowmelt on parking lots, trash, cigarette butts, animal waste, and misapplied lawn treatments washed into storm drains.



[www.h2ohero.org](http://www.h2ohero.org)

## The Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

### A partnership to protect water quality

A number of communities and entities within Monroe County have joined together to develop a stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. The goal of the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County is to utilize regional collaboration to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution.

The Coalition meets monthly to work collectively on developing and implementing a stormwater management program that complies with New York State's Phase II Stormwater Regulations.

Brighton  
Brockport  
Chili  
Churchville  
City of Rochester  
Clarkson  
East Rochester  
Fairport  
Gates  
Greece  
Hamlin  
Henrietta  
Hilton  
Irondequoit  
Mendon

Monroe County  
Ogden  
Parma  
Penfield  
Perinton  
Pittsford (T)  
Pittsford (V)  
Riga  
Scottsville  
Spencerport  
SUNY Brockport  
Sweden  
Webster (T)  
Webster (V)



[www.thestormwatercoalition.org](http://www.thestormwatercoalition.org)

## Pools, Fountains, and Spas...

### HOW TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY



### The Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County (and You) Protecting Water Quality



## Wastewater Discharge from Pools, Fountains, and Spas

Although it is perfectly safe to enjoy pools, fountains, and spas when their waters are treated properly, that same water in our stormwater system can become hazardous for aquatic life and our environment. Chlorine, acid, algaecides and other water treatment chemicals should be handled, stored, used, and disposed of properly. Even the empty containers need proper cleaning before disposal.

## Using Water Treatment Chemicals

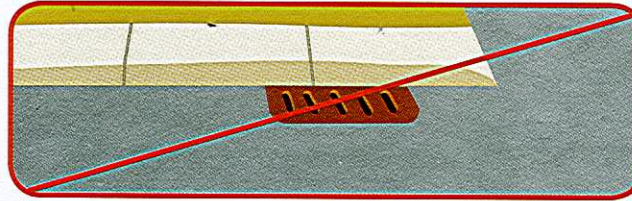
When using water treatment chemicals in pools, fountains and spas:

- Purchase only the amount of chemical needed to do the job. If chemicals need to be stored, place in a covered, yet well-ventilated, area.
- Thoroughly read all information provided on chemical container labels.
- Triple rinse all chemical containers, each time pouring the rinse water back into the pool, fountain or spa. Containers are then safe for disposal.
- Dispose of old or unwanted chemicals only at a Household Hazardous Waste facility. In Monroe County, call 753-7600 to schedule an appointment for disposal.



## Pool Backwashing

Pool backwashing is the most common maintenance activity. Backwash water can become a pollutant to our stormwater system, and draining to a storm sewer or water body is illegal if the water contains chemicals.



Some basic practices to prevent pool backwash chemicals (as well as fountain and spa wastewaters) from entering a water body include:

- Backwash water should drain into the lawn or other landscaped area of your property. Draining slowly will allow chemicals to dissipate and prevent erosion.
- Never drain backwash into a stream, creek, pond, or other natural water body.
- Do not drain backwash water into the storm sewer.
- Do not drain backwash onto driveways, sidewalks, streets, or other impervious surfaces.
- All wastewater from acid washing should be neutralized to pH between 6.0 and 7.0 and discharged to the lawn or sanitary sewer.
- Dispose of diatomaceous earth (DE) in the garbage.

## Draining Pools, Fountains and Spas

Drain your pool, fountain or spa only when a tested sample does not detect chlorine.

- Do not drain pools, fountains or spas down a driveway or into a storm sewer. Instead, drain slowly to the lawn or other landscaped area of your property using a low-volume pump or siphon.



- Be aware of drainage patterns that may affect neighboring properties, especially steep slopes.
- Winterize your pool by waiting for chlorine levels to be close to zero, draining your pool as described above and then adding your winter treatment chemicals. Draining first reduces the amount of chemicals needed and saves money. Mix the chemicals in your pool by using a skimmer pole and brush attachment.

To learn more about reducing stormwater pollution, visit the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County website:

[www.thestormwatercoalition.org](http://www.thestormwatercoalition.org)  
or the H2O Hero website:  
[www.h2ohero.org](http://www.h2ohero.org)

Thank you for helping preserve and protect water quality in Monroe County.