



What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground.

In a forest, meadow, or other natural area, stormwater soaks into the ground and naturally filters through the soil.

When forests and meadows are developed, they are replaced with neighborhoods, shopping centers, and other areas that introduce impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, parking lots, and driveways.

Impervious surfaces prevent rain or melting snow from soaking into the ground. This creates excess stormwater runoff and stormwater pollution.

Why is Stormwater a Problem?

Excess stormwater runoff and the pollution that it carries can cause many different problems including flooding, erosion, and water pollution. This can make the water unhealthy for fish and other animals to live in and unsafe for us to swim and play in.

What is Soak.?

Soak Up the Rain (SOAK) Brentwood is a voluntary program with the goal of protecting and restoring clean water in the Exeter River and ultimately the Great Bay estuary.

SOAK Brentwood provides resources for home and property owners to:

- Determine if their property is creating stormwater runoff that may be polluting the water.
- Plan and install simple improvements including low-cost, do-it-yourself stormwater practices like the ones described in the *New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*.

Want to Learn More?

Contact the Brentwood Conservation Commission at conservation@brentwood.nh.gov www.brentwoodnh.gov or visit the Soak Up the Rain New Hampshire website at www.soaknh.org.

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Polluted stormwater is the primary cause of water pollution problems in New Hampshire

All of our homes have the potential to create stormwater runoff. This is because roofs, driveways, and even lawns can prevent rain water from soaking into the ground. The *New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management* was created to teach homeowners the simple things that can be done to reduce the impacts of stormwater from our homes, while improving our properties at the same time.

Simple activities such as picking up pet waste, minimizing fertilizer use, and maintaining septic systems can reduce water pollution. Do-it-yourself stormwater practices like rain barrels, dry wells, infiltration trenches, and rain gardens can be built to further protect clean and healthy water.

Find out more about how you can soak up the rain at www.soaknh.org. Find more information on Soak Up the Rain Brentwood on the Brentwood Conservation Commission's website at www.brentwoodnh.gov or by emailing conservation@brentwood.nh.gov.



Photo source: Think Blue Maine

Stormwater and Your Home: Where does it come from?

Extra water that would naturally soak into the ground comes from:

- Roofs
- Driveway and Walkways
- Decks and Patios
- Other hard surfaces

Stormwater carries pollutants that can harm our lakes, streams, estuaries. These pollutants can come from:

- Eroding soils
- Fertilizers and lawn chemicals
- Pet waste
- Trash and debris

What can you do to help reduce stormwater pollution?

- Install a rain barrel, rain garden, dry well, or other DIY stormwater practice to reduce the amount of stormwater your property creates. Visit www.soaknh.org for ideas.
- Use good housekeeping practices, like applying less fertilizer, sweeping your driveway, and picking up after your pets to reduce stormwater pollutants.
- Get involved with Soak up the Rain Brentwood and install a stormwater practice on your property or volunteer on a work crew to install a SOAK project. Contact the Brentwood Conservation Commission for more information at conservation@brentwood.nh.gov.

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