



Seasonal Tips for Protecting Our Waterways

By Emma Danz, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

It is that time of year again- fall is here! The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy would like to remind you of the importance of preventing stormwater pollution while you make the most of the fall season. Stormwater is formed when rainwater makes its way into storm drains or runs off our properties directly into streams. On its journey to the stream, stormwater can pick up harmful substances that pollute our watershed.

There are many sources of stormwater pollution unique to autumn, and we need your help to control them. The leaves are falling, and their improper disposal poses a threat to our water resources. Leaf litter and any yard waste dumped into a stormwater basin or near a waterway can cause harmful nutrient accumulation. Leaves swept into the street can easily enter storm drains and make their way into the nearest creek as well.

Fall is the time for seeding and fertilizing your lawn. If excess fertilizer is applied, however, it cannot be absorbed by the soil and washes away with the rain. If you are working on a landscaping project in your yard this season, bare soil can also run off into streams and cause sediment pollution. The Skippack Creek is already categorized as impaired because of silt, so let's keep our soil in place! All of these problems can be avoided by putting some of our pollution prevention tips into practice:

Dispose of leaf litter and yard waste in a compost pile and never in the street or stream!

You can shred yard and leaf waste to use as mulch or fertilizer for your yard and garden. Or, check with your municipality for yard waste collection opportunities.

Do not use fertilizers immediately before a rainstorm, and do not apply them in excess.

Always follow the directions on the bottle for safe application and disposal whenever you use a chemical product. Reduce outdoor and household chemical use as much as possible.

A little extra caution while you keep up with your fall to-do list can make a big difference for the health of our watershed, and we thank you for cooperating with this effort. If you have any questions or concerns about stormwater management this fall, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy is available as a resource. Visit our website at www.PerkiomenWatershed.org.