



Stormwater might as well be called HYDROFILTH. Here's why...

- Pathogens, heavy metals, pesticides, salts, oil, common litter end up in our water.
- The “first flush” - the first inch - of rainfall washes 90% of the pollutants off the land into our waterbodies.
- Parking lots, roads, buildings (impervious surfaces) keep water from soaking into the soil and drastically affect water quality - 12-20% impervious surface coverage can threaten water quality.
- Lawns can generate up to 90% as much runoff as pavement when soils are compacted by lawn equipment or lawn chemicals which can deplete the microbial activity in the soil.

So how can I help prevent stormwater runoff (HYDROFILTH)?

In your yard:

- Add compost to your soil and aerate to reduce soil compaction.
- Add trees, shrubs and ‘natural’ areas to your property - the roots are efficient water recyclers.
- Plant a rain garden to capture water so it soaks into the soil.
- Use permeable pavers and porous asphalt to build walks and driveways.

In your town:

- Support open space protection especially near waterbodies.
- Advocate zoning/building regulations that encourage less pavement and other impervious surfaces.
- Support your town's efforts to clean storm drains, sweep the streets and build an effective stormwater infrastructure.



Visit [greenscapes.org](https://www.greenscapes.org) to learn more...



Stormwater is the #1 source of water pollution in Massachusetts - Reducing impervious surfaces is the best solution!