

## PERFORM REGULAR MAINTENANCE ON YOUR VEHICLE, BOAT OR RV

Look for leaks or other malfunctions which could leave puddles of potential pollutants below the vehicle.

## BE CONSCIOUS OF YOUR LAWN MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

If possible, try to reduce the quantity of fertilizers that you apply and adhere to the directions provided by the manufacturer. Try reducing the amount of irrigation you use to keep vegetation vibrant by utilizing native plant species.

## MAINTAIN NATURAL BUFFERS ON YOUR PROPERTY

Excessive asphalt/concrete reduces the amount of stormwater that can effectively infiltrate your yard.

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATURAL PEST MANAGEMENT

You can do this by introducing marigolds and purple martins to your garden. These offer good deterrents for certain pests without using chemical-based pesticides.

## WASH YOUR VEHICLE IN A GRASSY AREA

This will allow the car's run-off to drop into the lawn and remain there as wash water infiltrates the ground as opposed to local water bodies.

## KNOW YOUR SANITARY SYSTEM

If you are in a high groundwater area, and are able to, consider upgrades to your septic system. This can reduce the amount of nitrogen which over time can make its way into either the aquifer or surface water bodies.

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*Town of*  
**Islip**

# STORMWATER EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF  
PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT

## STORMWATER

The Town of Islip is part of the natural biosphere of waterways, bays, estuaries and wetlands that create an abundance of high-quality natural water bodies and aquifers that provides the Town with its high-quality drinking water.

In maintaining the Town's long history of being good stewards of a thriving aquatic life and the environment, we wanted to reach out to the residents to provide some helpful information that can be used daily to help us keep our waters clean and healthy for years to come.

The primary intent is to keep stormwater clean and free of contaminants as it makes its way into our storm drains and water bodies. Everyone has the ability to help make this process work by using some of the best practices presented in the following pages:



## PLEASE REMEMBER TO FERTILIZE RESPONSIBLY!

Fertilizer is not a problem if it is used carefully. If you use too much, or apply it at the wrong time of year, it can easily wash off of your lawn or garden and into storm drains. This run-off will then flow untreated into ponds, bays or estuaries. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in natural water features makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes the water harsh and unpleasant for boating, fishing and swimming.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Use fertilizers sparingly. Many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think.
- Do not fertilize before a rain storm.
- Consider using organic fertilizers; they release nutrients more slowly.
- Use commercially available compost or make your own from garden waste.
- Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and it puts waste to good use.
- Commercial compost and soil amendments are available at your local garden store.
- Use the Town Compost Facility to fulfill composting needs.