**What is stormwater?**

Stormwater is a term used to describe the water that originates during precipitation events. It may also be used to apply to water that originates with snowmelt or runoff water from overwatering that enters the stormwater system. Stormwater that does not soak into the ground becomes surface runoff, which either flows directly into surface waterways or is channeled in storm sewers, which eventually discharge to surface waters.

**Why is stormwater a concern?**

Stormwater is of concern for two main issues: one related to the volume and timing of runoff water (flood control and water supplies) and the other related to potential contaminants that the water is carrying, i.e. water pollution.

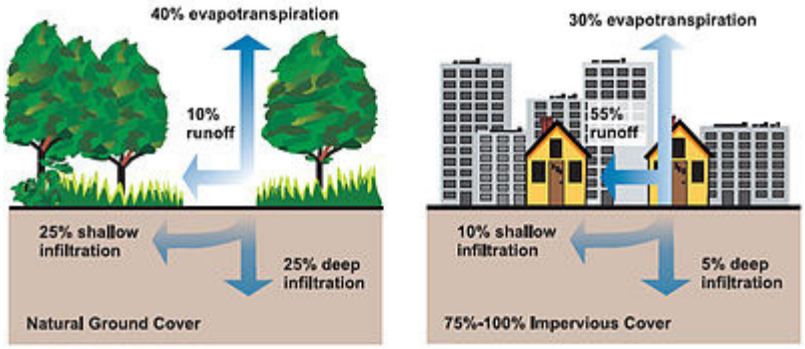
**How is stormwater polluted?**

Stormwater causes water pollution when rain or melting snow carries pollutants from the ground surface to nearby bodies of water, such as the Piscataquog River. Common practices that contribute to stormwater pollution are littering, disposing of trash and recyclables, disposing of pet waste, applying lawn chemicals, washing cars and changing motor oil on driveways, and disposing of leftover paint and household chemicals.

**How can I help reduce water pollution?**

- Avoid using lawn chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides,
- Always recycle,
- Pick up after your pets,
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on your lawn,
- Change your oil over your lawn, clean up spills with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand
- Recycle or dispose of used oil and other hazardous chemicals at the Goffstown Transfer Station, 497-4824.

**What is the relationship between impervious surfaces and surface runoff?**




Because impervious surfaces (parking lots, roads, buildings, compacted soil) do not allow rain to infiltrate into the ground, more runoff is generated than in the undeveloped condition. This additional runoff can erode watercourses (streams and rivers) as well as cause flooding when the stormwater collection system is overwhelmed by the additional flow.

**How is this stormwater managed?**

Managing the quantity and quality of stormwater is termed, “Stormwater Management”. The term Best Management Practice (BMP) is often used to refer to both structural or engineered control devices and systems (i.e. retention ponds) to treat polluted stormwater, as well as operational or procedural practices. Many forms of stormwater management and BMPS, include;

- Manage stormwater to control flooding and erosion;
- Plan and construct stormwater systems so contaminants are removed before they pollute surface waters or groundwater resources;
- Build structures such as ponds, swales or wetlands to work with existing or drainage structures, such as pipes and concrete channels;
- Educate the community;
- Plan carefully to create solutions before problems become too great;