

# Keep Summit's Water Clean



## *Keep pollutants out of water in and out of your yard.*

- **Cut down on fertilizers and pesticides**, and do not apply them at all if heavy rain is on the way. Consider keeping only a small lawn and leaving the rest of your yard in a natural state with trees and native plants that do not require fertilizer.
- **Dispose of yard waste properly.** Never sweep leaves and clippings into a storm drain. Try keeping a compost pile, using those clippings to create plant-boosting compost.
- **Dispose of hazardous products (for example, motor oil, antifreeze, paint) properly.** For more information on proper disposal, go to <http://ucnj.org/community/recycling/household>.
- **Clean up after your pet**--it's the law. And dispose of the waste in your own garbage rather than in storm drains, public trash or recycling containers.
- **Don't litter!** Reduce, reuse, and recycle.

## *Keep storm water in your yard and out of the sewers (and your basement) with proper downspout placement, rain gardens, and rain barrels.*

Storm water runoff affects our drinking water and the health of the Passaic River. How each of us manages water in our own yard impacts the overall health and quality of water in the region. Keep storm water on your property and as pollutant-free as possible to benefit everyone.

- Downspouts emptying above ground but at least five feet away from the house, and pointing downhill, keep water away from the foundation. For more detailed information on making a drainage plan, go to <http://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/green-basics/stormwater-management>.
- Install a rain garden. They look like regular gardens, but catch and filter storm water runoff, allowing it to penetrate into the ground rather than flowing into the street. For more information, check out [http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain\\_Gardens/fs513.pdf](http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/fs513.pdf).
- Use rain barrels to collect water from downspouts and use it for outdoor gardens and house plants. You'll save money on your water bill as well as help protect Summit's water. For more information, go to [http://water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater\\_Management/rainbarrels.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater_Management/rainbarrels.html).

