



What is Stormwater? *Stormwater* is water that originates from precipitation, including not only rain, but snow and hail as well. This water collects on the grass and pavement and eventually finds its way to a body of water or a drain. During its travel, stormwater will pick up chemicals from fuel and salt on the road, in addition to common yard practices of fertilizer and weed killer use. The federal government has tasked each state, and therefore county and township, to control just how much of these substances enter our environment and lower the levels as much as we can.

Spotlight Topic: Cigarette Butts & Their Stormwater Impact

Blight • Harm • Non-biodegradable



Butts are mistaken for food, Nobutts.org

Due to a variety of circumstances, smoking has primarily moved to the outdoors and unfortunately this means there is an increase in cigarette butt litter becoming the most littered item in the United States. We find them in parking lots and green spaces, but they are finding their way into the stormwater system as well. Cigarette butts are very small and easily carried by wind and water, and this results in 1 in every 10 discarded butts landing in lakes, rivers, and streams. It is a common misconception that butts are biodegradable, but unfortunately this isn't the case as the main component is plastic. They are small enough to be eaten by fish and contain chemicals including lead and arsenic. Stamping out a cigarette on the ground or dropping it in a gutter may extinguish the lit end but creates a stormwater problem.

How can we help? A great way to minimize this issue is through education like this as well as new practices. Businesses can ensure the placement of proper cigarette butt receptacles on their property. Citizens can carry portable ash trays, and refrain from tossing butts out of car windows. Many cigarette companies encourage portable disposal options and offer pouches on their website that can fit in your pocket or bag, while masking any leftover scent. Please, contact us for more information or visit the River Keepers online.



There are several portable options available

ATTENTION

We are now called the Stormwater Authority and we are **separate** from Sewer. Please remember this when making bill payments to ensure your payment is applied to the correct account! Thank You