

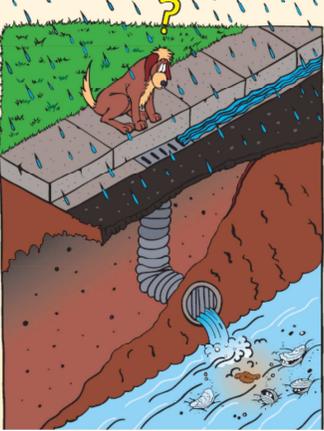
Don't Let Your Pet Pollute!

How to Safely Dispose of Pet Waste

Dog and Cat Waste Pollutes Our Watersheds!

Dog poop left on the street or lawn does not just go away or fertilize the grass. The bacteria in dog waste is often washed down storm drains and into ditches, streams, lakes, and inlets, and can travel for miles in the water.

Kitty litter dumped outside can also be washed into streams. The bacteria in pet waste can make it unsafe to harvest shellfish or swim in our waters.



Proper Pet Waste Disposal

1 When Walking

Bag It Bring plastic bags with you when you walk your dog. Use a bag to pick up the dog waste. Tie the bag closed and place in trash.



! Bring plastic bags with you when you walk your dog. Use a bag to pick up the dog waste. Tie bag closed and place in trash.

2 Options at Home

Trash It Double bag dog waste or kitty litter, tie securely and place in garbage. Long-handled "pooper scoopers" available at pet stores make it easy to pick up after your dog without stooping over.

Don't Flush It!



Important Reasons to Clean up Pet Waste

Dealing with pet waste is one of those topics that every pet owner must deal with but no one likes to talk about. The fact is that the majority of community and neighborhood pet problems result from the inappropriate handling of pet waste. In addition, pet waste is the greatest source of potential health risk for your pet and your family. This article will highlight the six important reasons to properly dispose of pet waste and will also give you some tips and products to make this chore easier.

1. Disease Control

There are several very common diseases that can be transmitted to dogs, cats and people through feces. These include giardia, roundworms, salmonella, and Ecoli. In addition, your dog can spread or contract parvovirus or coronavirus through infected feces. All of these diseases are very serious and common and every effort should be made by pet owners to keep their pets and family away from potentially infected feces.

2. Make your Yard more Useable

Nobody likes to walk through a yard that is hiding "doggie land mines." If you and your children are afraid to use your yard because of the dog, then you are wasting one of your biggest time and financial investments. In addition, the pets will get less interactive exercise and suffer as well. Once or twice a day 'scooping' off your yard with a shovel or a pet waste shovel will only take a couple of minutes and make it a place where everyone enjoys spending time.

3. Fly Control

Flies will consume and lay eggs in feces. These same flies will then come into your house and then spread disease as they pause on your counter and food. Keeping feces cleaned up will help to prevent this cycle.

4. Responsible Pet Ownership

Your responsibility to clean up after your pet doesn't end when your dog leaves your yard. There are probably fewer things that aggravate neighbors more than a dog that 'goes' in their yard. Pet owners need to clean up after their pet every time they go to the

bathroom. Period. No exceptions. If you are walking in the woods and your dog goes, then bury it. If you are in a park or neighborhood, pick it up with a plastic bag or a pet waste scoop. If you don't have a yard, then walk your dog on a leash or get an electronic fence. Don't make your responsibility somebody else's problem.

5. Dogs and Cat Waste Pollutes Our Water Sheds

Dog feces left on the street or lawn does not just go away or fertilize the grass. The bacteria in dog waste is often washed down storm drains and ditches, streams, lakes and rivers, and can travel for miles in water.

6. It's the law!

Weymouth Township has a "*pooper-scooper*" laws ordinance number 425-05 that govern pet waste cleanup. Some of these laws specifically require anyone who walks an animal off of their property to carry a bag, shovel, or scooper. Any waste left by the animal must be cleaned up immediately. **Offenders are subject up to a \$500.00 fine.**

Conclusion

The problem of pet waste disposal in suburbia is a real one. Research has indicated strongly that water quality is negatively impacted by this pollutant in New Jersey. However, unlike many other sources of water degradation in the state, improper pet waste management is a dilemma that can be easily corrected through education by organizations and common sense actions by individuals.