

Stormwater runoff is rain and melting snow that flows over roofs, lawns, and paved areas. While traveling over the land stormwater becomes contaminated by debris, chemicals, and pet waste. The contaminated runoff ends up in stormwater sewer pipes through catch basins or culverts. Stormsewer systems are known as “gray systems” and the pipes convey the water either to the County Sewer District or discharge directly to our rivers and reservoirs. Preventing toxins from contaminating the stormwater runoff creates healthier water bodies and drinking supply. Here’s how you can help:

1. Pick up after your pet...the City of Cohoes has provided twelve doggie pots throughout the parks and downtown area.
2. Use phosphorous-free fertilizers on your lawn.
3. Dispose of household hazardous wastes through the City’s May 18th Spring Clean-up in Lansing Park.
4. Do not pour any chemicals or medications into the catch basins or into your indoor plumbing.
5. Avoid raking leaves into the catch basins. Instead bag lawn debris.
6. Avoid washing driveway toxins into the catch basins. Clean-up spills with kitty litter or sand, sweep up and dispose of it in the regular trash.
7. Bring old prescription medications to the NYS Troopers Headquarters at 760 Troy-Schenectady Rd in Latham, NY. Inside the building clear bags are available to place your medications in before dropping the medication in the mailbox. You can reach the Headquarters at 783-3211.