

The Pembroke Stormwater Times

Spring 2025



PET WASTE: WHY IT IS IT A PROBLEM?

Stormwater, or runoff, is the water that flows as a result of rain or snowmelt. It will travel across pavement and other surfaces, collecting sediment, chemicals, and pollutants. Pet waste is a frequent culprit, as it will flow with runoff directing into waterways, infiltrating drinking and swimming water without any treatment. Pet waste contains harmful (and gross!) bacteria and diseases, such as salmonella and

parasites, that can cause illness in humans as well as other animals and pets if exposed to it. And it's not just getting into your water. Leaving pet waste on the ground, especially in public areas like parks or playing fields, may pose a risk to children and others who use those spaces, as bacteria and parasites can linger on the soil even after the waste has decomposed.

SCOOP THE POOP TIPS:

- 1. Always carry a bag or some other device for poop removal when you walk your dog.** Try reusing a grocery store bag, food packaging bags, or purchase biodegradable ones. Always make sure to check the bag for holes before you scoop...
- 2. Use the bag as a glove to pick up the pet waste.** Turn the bag inside out around the waste, scoop it up, and seal the bag. Then dispose in a trashcan or take it with you.
- 3. Properly dispose of the waste.** Don't leave your bagged or un-bagged pet waste near a storm drain.
- 4. Wash your hands.** Use warm, soapy water after dealing with pet waste.



Own a business? Or manage a commercial or public area?

Consider installing pet waste disposal stations.

Do you have an area that experiences a high volume of pet walkers? Or do you want to ensure that public areas remain clean? Consider installing a pet waste disposal station. These stations help to remove one of the biggest barriers for pet owners - not having a bag or trash can. A pet waste station provides the waste bags and container necessary to remove and dispose of the pet waste from the surrounding area.

Prefabricated pet waste stations require minimal assembly and are easily installed. There is signage that identifies the station and its presence communicates an interest in keeping public and open space areas clean and healthy for all users and our watersheds clear of contaminants.



Pet waste disposal station

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Think Blue Suncook
www.thinkbluesuncook.org

NH-MS4 Regional Stormwater Coalitions
<https://www.nhms4.des.nh.gov/>

UNH Stormwater Center
www.unh.edu/unhsc/

NH Department of Environmental Services Stormwater
<https://www.des.nh.gov/water/stormwater>

NH Department of Environmental Services Pet Waste Outreach Campaign
<https://www.des.nh.gov/blog/march-2022-sake-clean-water-well-our-shoes-scoop-poop>

Pet Waste Information, City of Dover NH
<https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-operations/community-services/engineering/environmental/stormwater-management/outreach-materials/pet-waste/>

This flyer is intended for educational purposes as part of Pembroke's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements.



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