

Washing Cars & Driveways: FAQ

How can I practice eco-friendly car care?

Great question, and we're happy you asked! If you're washing at home, consider whether you can wash your car on any lawn space you may have instead of on pavement. This allows the grass to absorb the water used and avoids sending detergents into storm drains. Using reusable cloths rather than disposable products, with non-toxic cleaning products are another great way to limit impacts, especially if they are free of phosphates and petroleum-based ingredients. It's important to repair any fluid leaks in your vehicle prior to washing, and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations. A self serve car wash, where you can bring your own cleaning products, control the amount of water used, and where water used for washing is directed to a wastewater treatment facility, is also a great option.

Water Quality Testing

Summer water quality testing at Bayside Beach, Rosetti Natural Area and other locations will again be conducted this summer. The testing will occur over ten weeks beginning the week of June 20th and continuing through the end of August. 12 Samples are taken on Mondays and Wednesdays and sent to a water quality testing lab to ensure the waters are safe for swimming and other recreational sports.

In the unlikely event of a beach closure, signs will be posted at swimming areas and additional tests will be completed until it is determined the water is safe for swimming. Tests results and a map of testing locations are available on the stormwater program's website (below).

Stormwater Information

The Town implements clean water programs, reviews development applications, manages capital projects, and oversees regulations designed to improve and protect the community's water resources. For more info please visit:

www.colchestervt.gov/1837/StormwaterUtility

Water Quality Hotline: (802)-264-5628

General stormwater inquiries: (802)-264-5620

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CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER

Town of Colchester
Public Works Department

CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022



Above Photo Courtesy of Adam Cohen

Welcome to another beautiful spring season—it's official, the warm weather is here to stay! While everyone is starting to spend more time outside, the Public Works Department has been preparing for a busy season of clean water projects. This edition of the newsletter includes information about:

- May 7: Green Up Day
- Adopt a Drain Program Launch
- Spotlight on: Pipe Lining
- Smith Creek Design Work

? Did You Know ?

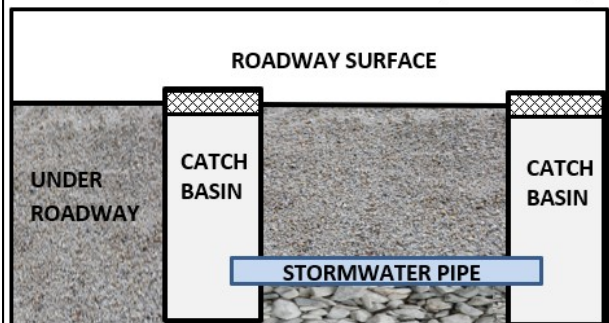
Since 2012, the Town's stormwater program has received over \$1,150,000 in grants!

Spotlight on: Pipe Lining

Most folks don't think about stormwater pipes that are installed below ground—but we do! These pipes carry water between basins in the roadway (shown below), can be constructed of metal, concrete or heavy duty plastic, and most pipes last for 30+ years. When pipes are nearing the end of their useful life, the solution has traditionally been to dig up and replace them, which can have significant traffic impacts, require survey work and coordination to avoid utility lines, and can be labor intensive - which is expensive! The Department has been exploring the use of pipe lining as a way to restore the structural integrity of older pipes while avoiding these impacts.

The approach involves running a soft liner through a pipe, inflating and then hardening the pipe liner using hot steam. The new liner produces a hardened, seamless “pipe within a pipe,” with the smooth interior of the liner reducing friction and actually increasing flow capacity. Depending on the thickness of the liner, the new lining can have up to a 50-year design life—the same as a brand new heavy duty plastic pipe. This practice is roughly 4x less costly than digging up pipes to replace them, allowing each dollar raised through stormwater fees to be stretched further. The Town has already used this strategy as a form of repairing over 1,000 linear feet of stormwater piping in the past two years, and we have 2,000 feet of pipe planned to be lined in 2022.

HOW A CATCH BASIN WORKS (SIDE VIEW)



Adopt-A-Drain Program

ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



Protect local
waterways

Sign up!

adopt-a-drain.org

Adopt-a-Drain is an exciting new initiative in Chittenden County making its debut on Earth Day 2022! Storm drains can sometimes flow directly to lakes and streams, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and

keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.

Rethink Runoff, an ongoing awareness and public outreach effort to reduce dirt and pollutants in stormwater runoff in the Lake Champlain Basin, has partnered with Hamline University to launch Adopt-a-Drain in Vermont. Currently, the program has been adopted by five municipalities including Burlington, Colchester, Essex Town, Essex Junction, and Milton. Volunteers choose how frequently to clear their drain and report how much and what kinds of debris is collected so that researchers can track exactly what is ending up in storm drains. Folks who sign up receive a welcome packet, a small yard sign, and the clever perk of getting to name a drain. A few early adopters include punny names like Obi-Wan-Drainobi, R2Drain2, and Brain Drain. How creative can you get? You can Adopt-a-Drain by going to vt.adopt-a-drain.org.

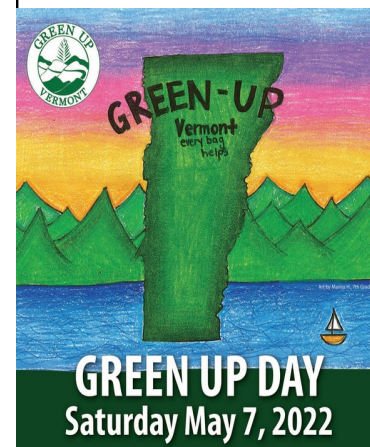
Rethink Runoff's Stream Team is a project to engage citizens across a nine-municipality area – Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski- to implement projects to reduce nonpoint source pollution and stormwater volume at the local level. For more information visit: www.rethinkrunoff.org

Smith Creek Design Work

The Malletts Bay Scoping Study, completed in 2017, involved the five watersheds that drain to Malletts Bay including Smith Creek, Crooked Creek, Moorings Stream, West Lakeshore Drive, and East Lakeshore Drive. Within each watershed opportunities for improved stormwater management were identified. In 2018 and 2020 the Town received grant awards totaling over \$350,000 to move forward with improvements in the Moorings Stream watershed (the Shore Acres neighborhood). Thank you to all Shore Acres property owners who contributed to the success of the Right-of-Way phase. While final construction plans are being developed there, we are beginning preliminary design work with the assistance of a \$25,000 Clean Water Block Grant in the neighborhoods that drain to Smith Creek (Midnight Pass, Everbreeze, and Edgewood). Stay tuned for more information!

May 7: Green Up Day

Green Up Day 2022 is Saturday, May 7th! Come help clean up community roadsides after a long winter. If left in place, debris and litter could be transported by stormwater to our lakes and streams. The Green Up Day team will be at the Colchester Police Department on May 7, 2022 from 8am to noon to hand out bags and coordinate locations. Bags can be left on the side of any public



road in a place where town staff and a truck can safely stop -- NOT on the bike path or school grounds. Last year we collected 4.23 tons of trash and over 240 tires —can we beat that this year? Thanks to all who help keep our community clean and green! For more

information, please email:

greenupcolchestervt@gmail.com