

# It's That Time of Year!

The month of June signals the end of the school year and the start of the official beach season. Most Rhode Islanders spend at least some time at our local beaches each summer, enjoying the sun, the sand, and the water. Unfortunately, most Rhode Islanders also have experienced a beach closure. The most common reason that beaches are closed in the summer is the presence of higher-than-normal levels of bacteria, which can be caused by many factors. One of those factors is stormwater pollution.

If you've ever noticed water flowing down the street when it rains, then you've noticed stormwater. **When stormwater hits the pavement, it picks up and mixes with what's there.** That might include:

- oil, grease, and automotive fluids;
- fertilizer and pesticides from gardens and homes;
- bacteria from pet waste and improperly maintained septic systems;
- soap from car washing;
- debris and litter.



Many people assume that stormwater flows down storm drains and then to a treatment facility. That is almost never the case. It either flows directly into local waters or down storm drains, which channel it into local water bodies. **Fortunately, there are simple steps that you can take to help with this problem!**

For tips to help safeguard our waters, visit: <http://www.ristormwatersolutions.org>

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