

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the water produced from when rain, snow, sleet, etc. fall to earth. This stormwater can either seep into the ground or collect to potentially become a flood.

To protect the people of the Town of Indian Head from flooding and water quality, the Town has a series of drains, pipes, and water quality improving Best Management Practices (BMPs) called a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The MS4 directly drains to our lakes, streams, rivers, and ponds so it plays a very important part in keeping our waters clean.

Did you know that every waterway in Indian Head, is part of the Potomac River watershed? Any contaminants released into our watersheds are contributing to the degradation of many already in danger waterways. Indian Head is doing its part to protect local waterways by helping to keep the water clean before it reaches our streams. You can help too, by following the advice in this pamphlet and by participating in local stormwater events.

## Town of Indian Head Stormwater Resources

For more information regarding stormwater events, public meetings, and other public participation opportunities, please visit the Town website (listed below). The Stormwater Management subpage also contains links to the Town's annual stormwater reports, ordinances, educational information, and a list of helpful resources on a variety of stormwater-related topics.

**Town of Indian Head Office**  
**4195 Indian Head Hwy,**  
**Indian Head, MD 20640**

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**(301) 743-5511**  
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**<https://www.townofindianhead.org>**



# What is Stormwater?

For Local Businesses



**ARRO**

## What is a BMP?

You may have noticed man-made ponds, basins, and channels around the Town or on your property. Stormwater is collected and directed to these structures by a network of pipes and inlets. These structures are called Best Management Practices, or BMPs. These structures help remove pollutants from stormwater runoff prior to entering our natural waterways

Town staff will inspect these structures annually to ensure they are functioning as designed. If you have a BMP on your property which is not properly maintained, you may receive a notice from the Town to repair the structure.

### Common maintenance issues include:

- Clogged inlets/outlets
- Trash and debris
- Dead grass/vegetation
- Structure erosion
- Sediment and organic waste build up



## How can local businesses help reduce stormwater pollution?

Much of the area in the Town of Indian Head is developed, with significant areas of impervious surfaces like your business or parking lot which is a large contributor to stormwater pollution. This means that if everyone joins in, we can make big changes to the quality of our stormwater!

- Inspect/Maintain BMPs on their property
- Clean Stormwater inlets, outlets, swales on property
- Ensure private on lot sewer systems are maintained
- Collect waste from property (grass clippings, leaves, sediment) so it does not go into the stormwater system.
- Limit the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and deicers
- Store materials, especially those that contain potential pollutants, indoors or under a cover (overhead, tarp)



## What is an Illicit Discharge?

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as "...any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater." This can include cleaning products, lawn products, trash, and organic debris.

We ask the public to not contaminate our stormwater system with items such as these.

### How can an Illicit Discharge be Reported?

The Town has illicit discharge reporting information on the Town's Stormwater (MS4) page. If you witness an illicit discharge, please call The Town's phone number (301-743-5511).

### Additional Resources

#### Municipal Website

[https://www.townofindianhead.org/index.asp?SEC=C6E491F7-6823-4056-94FA-0499B7DE7DC4&Type=B\\_BASIC](https://www.townofindianhead.org/index.asp?SEC=C6E491F7-6823-4056-94FA-0499B7DE7DC4&Type=B_BASIC)

#### County Website

<https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/planning-and-growth-management/stormwater-management>

#### Maryland DEP/EPA

<https://mde.maryland.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

#### US EPA

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>