

VILLAGE OF COLONIE CONDUCTS RESIDENT STORMWATER SURVEY

During the month of December 2007 the Village of Colonie Department of Public Works distributed 3,371 Stormwater Quality Surveys to the residents. The residents were asked to complete the survey and either drop them off at the Village Hall, mail them back or fax them back. A total of 368 surveys were returned with the breakdown of 247 dropped off, 82 mailed, 28 faxed and 11 blank. The following is the survey along with the correct answers (**highlighted**) and the total resident responses (in brackets):

1. The Village of Colonie should place the following level of importance on addressing the stormwater pollution problem:
A. High (72) B. Moderate (196) C. Low (70)
2. The water entering the storm drain goes:
A. **Directly to streams and water bodies (161)** C. To a treatment plant (63)
B. Into the ground (17) D. I'm not sure (74)
3. All stormwater within the Village of Colonie EVENTUALLY drains into what body of water?
A. The Mohawk River (93) C. **The Hudson River (157)**
B. The St. Lawrence River (2) D. I'm not sure (65)
4. A watershed is:
A. A swamp or marshy area (29) C. **An area of land that drains to a common point (232)**
B. A large flooding event (3) D. I'm not sure (42)
5. Muddy water from construction sites can seriously impact the health of a river.
A. **True (283)** B. False (37) C. I'm not sure (14)
6. Allowing oil or detergent to enter the storm drain can harm fish and other aquatic life.
A. **True (321)** B. False (10) C. I'm not sure (6)
7. I would describe my participation in recycling and the Town of Colonie Hazardous waste drop-off programs as:
A. Rare to never (43) B. Moderate (120) C. Frequent (165)

8. What is the largest source of water pollution in New York State?
- A. Industrial discharges (92) C. **Stormwater (105)**
 B. Chemical wastes (43) D. I'm not sure (89)
9. The State and Federal government provide all funding to help cities and towns comply with costly stormwater programs:
- A. True (30) B. **False (191) **** C. I'm not sure (100)
There has been a small grant that runs out in 2008 with no grant \$ after that.
10. I could describe my level of awareness of the local programs for recycling and household hazardous waste collection as:
- A. Unaware (18) B. Somewhat aware (181) C. Well informed (129)
11. How much money would you be willing to spend quarterly for local programs to reduce pollution and improve waterways in the Village of Colonie?
- A. None (106) B. \$0-\$5.00 (105) C. \$5.00-\$10.00 (48) D. \$10.00-\$20.00 (29)

THE VILLAGE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE RESIDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY. YOUR COMMENTS HAVE BEEN READ AND, IF EPA REGULATIONS PERMIT, CONSIDERED.

In an effort to help residents improve their understanding of Stormwater management, we have developed the following:

TEN HELPFUL HINTS FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

1. **Keep your roadway catch basins clean.** Be sure that leaves and grass clippings do not block or enter the storm drains.
2. **Do not backwash your pool to the storm system.** The chlorine in the pool water can be harmful to the fish and aquatic life.
3. **Do not pour oil or chemicals into the storm drain.** This has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.
4. **Pick up your pet waste.** Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.
5. **Wash your car on your lawn.** Washing and degreasing your car on the blacktop can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system.

6. **Don't overwater or fertilize your lawn.** Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams.
7. **Cover piles of dirt or mulch.** Cover these piles when being used for landscaping and do not leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains.
8. **Use rain barrels to collect roof drain water.** You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.
9. **Properly dispose of household hazardous waste.** Do not pour them into sinks or drains and report any chemical spills to the authorities for proper action.
10. **Develop rain gardens.** Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground.

THE VILLAGE HAS A LIMITED NUMBER OF BOOKLETS ABOUT DEVELOPING RAIN GARDENS. PLEASE CONTACT THE VILLAGE D.P.W. @ 869-6372 IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE.