

What's the Problem with Dog Waste?

Dog waste left in our yards, sidewalks and parks can have many adverse effects on the environment.

It's full of harmful bacteria and excess nutrients.

Besides being a nuisance, dog waste can make people sick, especially children who are more likely to come into contact with it while playing.

Dog waste does not make for a good fertilizer. It is toxic to your lawn and plants, causing burns and discoloring.

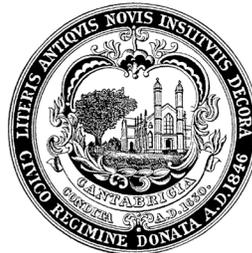
Dog waste can find its way to local rivers through rain or melting snow... carried by the city's drainage system... where the waste decays, uses up oxygen in the water, and sometimes releases ammonia. This can kill fish!

Dog waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth that can make the water unsafe for contact by you and your pet.



Managing dog waste properly is something easy that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our surface waters.

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[www.cambridgema.gov/
stormwater](http://www.cambridgema.gov/stormwater)



PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY

Did You Know?

There are over 4,000 licensed dogs in Cambridge.

Each of these dogs produces about $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of solid waste and over 7 billion bacteria daily!



What's So Bad About Dog Waste?

Bacteria and other parasites found in pet waste, such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, can survive for long periods when left on the ground.

Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into the storm drainage system by rain or melting snow

Individual actions can result in significant water quality improvements when carried out by many people.

Unlike some forms of stormwater pollutants, individual people can easily and economically manage dog waste and help keep our waters safe and aesthetically pleasing.

How You Can Help



BRING IT – Always bring a plastic bag when you walk your dog.

BAG IT – Use the bag as a glove to pick up the dog waste. Scoop it up and turn the bag inside out around the waste.

DISPOSE IT – Properly dispose of dog waste by putting it in a trash can. **Never throw dog waste down a storm drain.**

AND REMEMBER

- Pick up after your pet, even in your yard
- Only bring your dog where dogs are allowed.
- Dispose of the waste properly.



Rainfall and snowmelt in the City of Cambridge goes untreated into our stormwater system, then directly into either the Charles River or Alewife Brook.

As it flows, stormwater picks up contaminants and pollutants in its path.

That's why it's important to make sure that dog waste and its pollutants do not end up in the storm drains.