

Here is what every responsible pet owner needs to do:

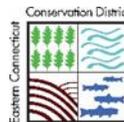
1. Always have a bag with you to clean up after your pet.
2. Clean up after your pet every time, even when no one is looking.
3. Tie the bag closed and toss it in the trash.
4. Patrol your yard weekly, especially before it rains, and clean up after your pet.

*Pet waste is a potential public health risk.  
Help to keep our watershed healthy.  
Please pick up after your pet.*

**Eastern Connecticut Conservation District is a non-profit organization created by State Statute. Our mission is soil and water conservation. We serve thirty-six municipalities in eastern Connecticut.**

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## *Pet Waste, Your Health and Water Quality*



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## If Your Dog Poops



**You must scoop...  
Even If No One Sees You!**

Image credit: WWW.IMGUR.COM

## Dog waste is an environmental pollutant.

In 1991 the US EPA classified dog waste as an Environmental Pollutant. If left on the ground, it is considered a type of non-point source pollution, or NPS. NPS comes from scattered sources, rather than a pipe or smokestack. Once on the ground, the dog waste and the contaminants it contains get picked up by stormwater runoff. This contamination is washed downslope every time it rains. By this manner, it makes its way into your nearby stream, or your lake and eventually down to Long Island Sound.

People who enjoy recreational activities in our streams, lakes and ponds shouldn't be exposed to unnecessary pollution. If you think picking up dog waste is undesirable, think about swimming in it!

According to the US EPA, a dog eliminates between 0.5 and 0.75 pounds of waste every day. That adds up to almost 275 pounds per year! Per dog!



## Why is dog waste bad for the environment?

Dog waste contains a mixture of pollutants, including nutrients and pathogens. Nutrient pollution encourages excess plant and algae growth in rivers and lakes, and can lead to low dissolved oxygen in aquatic environments when the plants and algae decay. Lower oxygen concentration can lead to fish kills.

## Can people and/or their pets catch diseases from dog waste?

Many different disease-causing organisms and parasites can be found in pet waste.

Parasites	Bacteria	Viruses
Cryptosporidium	Salmonella	Distemper
Giardia	E. Coli	Parvovirus
Hookworms	Campylobacter	Canine hepatitis
Roundworms	Leptospira	
Tapeworms		

## Does and Don'ts for pet waste

### Do:

Clean up your pet waste, tie the bag shut and dispose of the bag in the trash.

If you prefer to flush the waste down the toilet, dispose of the used bag in the trash.

### Don't:

Put your pet waste in a storm drain. That will only cause the pollution to go somewhere else, typically the nearest stream.

Flush bagged pet waste down the toilet.

Compost your dog waste with your regular compost. It won't get hot enough to kill the germs.