

The New York City Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

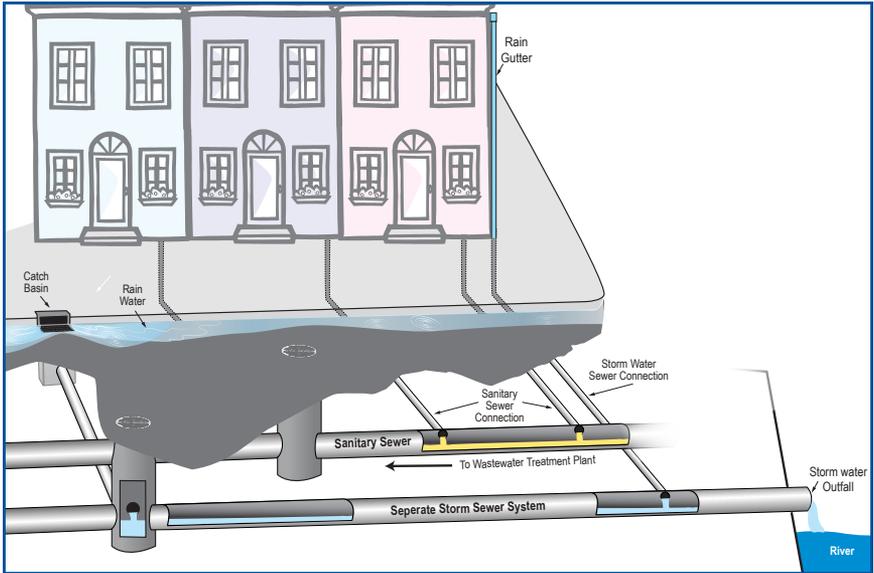
About the MS4

Certain areas of New York City have a separate sewer system with two separate systems of pipes. The sanitary sewer system carries wastewater from buildings to treatment plants. The other system, known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), carries water from the streets to local waterways.

Environmental Impacts

When it rains or snows, stormwater runoff travels over streets, buildings, parking lots, construction sites and other impervious surfaces, sweeping up sediment, oil, grease, pet waste, and other pollutants. This polluted stormwater is then carried by MS4 pipes into local waterways. This can have many adverse effects on the plants, fish, animals, and people who use these waterways.





What is the City doing to keep pollutants out of the MS4?

To address pollution issues associated with stormwater, New York City is developing a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP).

The SWMP will include elements to:

- educate and involve the public
- find and eliminate unlawful connections and discharges to MS4 pipes
- control stormwater pollution at construction sites
- require permanent on-site stormwater management for certain projects
- control stormwater pollution at City facilities and from City operations
- control industrial and commercial sources of stormwater pollution
- control litter and debris from entering waterways
- monitor and assess the effectiveness of the program

This SWMP is required by New York City's first MS4 Permit, issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and effective August 1, 2015.

What can you do to keep pollutants out of the MS4?

Visit the NYC-MS4 webpage at www.nyc.gov/dep/ms4 to learn more about how you can help keep our local waterways clean. If you have any questions, please email MS4@dep.nyc.gov.