



# STORM DRAIN MEDALLION INITIATIVE

Storm drain labeling is a joint environmental education effort between the Town of Oyster Bay's Department of Environmental Resources and volunteers from the community. This program involves the installation of medallions, with the slogan "only rain in the drain" onto the face of Town storm drain covers. Adding this message throughout the Town is a pollution prevention measure intended to dissuade individuals from placing materials into these catchment systems. Additionally, this program serves as an educational tool and reminder for all who pass by of the connection between our storm drains and local waterways.

As water flows across hard surfaces like streets, parking lots, and driveways, it travels to our curbside storm drains, through a series of underground channels, and eventually discharges into our waterways. Storm drains quickly take in all of the water, and prevent flooding throughout our streets and neighborhood. However, the stormwater that enters our waterbodies and groundwater is untreated. While water from inside our homes travels to a municipal treatment plant before being discharged, stormwater does not - sewer and stormwater are two separate systems. This means that pollution and contaminants can find their way into the Long Island Sound and South Oyster Bay, places where we enjoy swimming and recreational boating making it vital to protect these pathways.

In an effort to mitigate the harmful impacts of pollutants on our waterways, the Town of Oyster Bay engages in several pollution prevention measures including: the installation of storm drain filters, harbor and beach cleanups, hazardous waste cleanup programs, water quality testing, bay bottom restoration, and shellfish restoration. While these programs filter and manage the influx of polluted stormwater as it reaches our waterways, the most effective way to mitigate stormwater pollution is to stop it at its source. The source of most stormwater pollution comes from everyday human activities such as: fertilizer/pesticides, pet waste, motor oil, and street litter. Therefore, we can all make a difference to reduce pollution and its effects on our local natural resources through making environmentally mindful changes to our daily lifestyle.

***For more information, please call (516) 677-5943.***



**JOSEPH SALADINO**  
TOWN SUPERVISOR



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# Getting Started

*We appreciate your help in keeping our waterways clean! Essential supplies needed to participate will be provided by the Town and it is easy to volunteer.*



**First decide how many medallions you want to install during a particular event, or pick an area you would like to cover.** The most common municipal storm drains found within the Town of Oyster Bay are cut into a curb (side inlet) or beside a curb (grated inlet). These two types of storm drains are both eligible for medallion placement on the drain cover. Labeling only takes a few minutes per drain, so many can be accomplished in one day. Many may choose their own neighborhood to start! Start by filling out our online registration form at [www.oysterbaytown.com/stormdrains](http://www.oysterbaytown.com/stormdrains)

**Only one person per team needs to register and you can register for multiple supply kits at one time depending on the size of your group.** After submitting the form, you will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Resources with arrangements for how to receive your supply kit and confirm your desired installation date.



**Before your installation date, organize a group meeting prior to going out and marking, review safety measures and rules, location, marking methods, and review the importance of keeping these drains pollution free.**

*Have fun and experience the satisfaction of helping to protect your local environment!*



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# Safety Procedures and Supplies

Safety is the most important consideration when completing your project. Traffic is the greatest hazard for anyone working at the roadside. At least one adult should be assigned to watch and divert traffic away from youth volunteers placing the medallions. The safest areas to mark are residential and low traffic areas. Never mark storm drains alone. Leave dogs and very small children at home.

- Inform all volunteers of the safety procedures before the work begins.
- Dress appropriately. Wear thick-soled, closed-toe shoes; No sandals. Use gloves.
- Wear clothing that is bright or reflective.
- Maintain a proper adult-child ratio.
- Do not wear headphones or air pods while participating in the installation.
- Designate students/individuals to place the medallions and students to map the marked storm drains
- Use sidewalks when available. Walk towards oncoming traffic when walking in a street if there isn't a sidewalk.
- Avoid reaching in or stepping inside the storm drain.
- Make participants aware of possible contact with poisonous plants, bees, biting insects, etc. when outside. Stay alert and avoid them.
- In case of emergency, group leader should have a first aid kit available and have access to a phone.

The road must be dry for the adhesive to stick well – therefore it cannot be raining/drizzling for 24 hours prior to installation. Very hot or cold temperatures interfere with adhesive drying. It is recommended that medallions are placed when the weather is between 60 - 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Medallions must be placed during daylight hours only.

### **Provided Supplies:**

- Medallions
- Adhesive Glue
- Maps of Storm Drain Locations
- Wire brush to clean surface

### **Suggested Supplies:**

*(NOT provided by the Town of Oyster Bay)*

- Latex/Non-Latex Gloves
- Pens and Highlighters to track drains marked
- Garbage Bags to collect debris around storm drain





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## Medallion Installation Procedures

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### 1. Find Your Spot

First locate the storm drains you have been assigned to mark. Consult the provided map to make sure you mark all storm drains within your designated area. Split up into smaller groups if necessary to mark a large area. Be mindful of your surroundings and private property.

### 2. Clean the Surface

Clean the face of the drain cover removing any loose dirt, trash, and build up with the wire brush. Do not dispose of this material by pushing it into the storm drain. Having a clean and dry work surface will ensure the longevity of the medallion placement. For safety, stand on the grass or curbside while cleaning – do not stand in the street.

### 3. Apply Glue

Open the adhesive and squeeze onto the back of the medallion. Starting 1/8 of an inch from the outside edge of the marker, apply a THICK bead of adhesive and then work in to the center.

### 4. Stick It

Apply the medallion to the surface of the curb cover by pushing down firmly. Maintain pressure for several seconds and twist slightly to secure. Make sure that the medallion is applied to the center of the storm drain cover, with the writing facing outwards towards the street. Some adhesive should be pushed out in the process of pressing downwards – this is important as it will seal the edge of the medallion to the curb surface and prevent debris from reaching underneath.

### 5. Document Your Work

Record the location of the placed medallion on the provided map/tracking sheet. Do not forget to fill out the provided Storm Drain Summary Sheet and take pictures of your crew and your work!

### 6. Check For Missed Drains

If placing medallions within a certain area, have one volunteer from each work group check that all storm drains in the groups have been marked.

### 7. Clean Up

Clean up your work site after the marking is completed. Be sure to leave the site better than you found it! Remove and litter and debris around the area that could potentially end up in the drain.

### 8. Celebrate

Thank and congratulate your volunteers for a job well done! Upon request, the Town of Oyster Bay may issue certificates of recognition for your hard work. For any additional comments or questions regarding please contact the Town's Department of Environmental Resource, at (516) 677-5943 or e-mail [environmental@oysterbay-ny.gov](mailto:environmental@oysterbay-ny.gov).



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