WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

Due to mercury's high toxicity level, only a small drop of mercury in a lake can contaminate the entire waterbody. Mercury *bioaccumulates* in fish and humans, meaning levels of mercury in the body can build over time under continued exposure. This magnifies the health effects of mercury, which can be severe, if not fatal.

"POLLUTED STORMWATER RUNOFF IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS"

Source: CT DEEP

MERCURY

AND STORMWATER POLLUTION

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

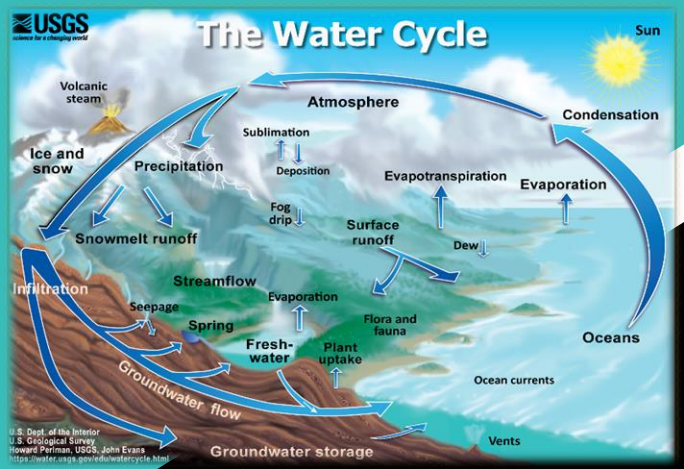
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

www.ct.gov/dot/CTDOT-MS4

MERCURY

MANY HUMAN ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTE TO MERCURY POLLUTION

Improper storage and disposal of mercury-containing items such as thermometers, fluorescent lightbulbs, etc. contribute to mercury pollution in water. Coal combustion also emits mercury into the atmosphere, which later falls to the surface as precipitation.



Source: NOAA

COMMON SOURCES OF MERCURY:

- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Fluorescent lightbulbs
- Batteries

STORMWATER POLLUTION

Mercury can also be found in car tires, brake lines, and fuel emissions. During storm events, rain or snow mixes with these deposits on roadways, and the pollutants are washed into stormwater catch basins.

Once polluted stormwater is collected in catch basins, it is typically discharged directly into watercourses. Any fish or aquatic life in these watercourses will take on the toxic load of mercury in the water.

Source: US EPA

PREVENT MERCURY POLLUTION

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MINIMIZE YOUR MERCURY LOAD ON THE ENVIRONMENT:

Never throw fluorescent lightbulbs, batteries, thermometers, or other mercury-containing materials in the trash

Check your municipality's mercury recycling program for proper disposal

Bring used auto parts and scrap vehicles to a local recycler as they may contain mercury

Source: US EPA

Source: USDA