

Street Sweeping FAQs

— BOROUGH
OF STRATFORD

Why it matters, what to expect, and how residents can help

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Is street sweeping a cosmetic service?

No. Street sweeping is an NJDEP requirement. Its main purpose is to remove sediment, litter, metals, and pollutants before they enter storm drains and waterways. A perfectly clean-looking street is not a realistic goal, but stormwater protection is.

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Why is sweeping effective even if it's not curb-to-curb?

Most pollutants collect within the first 18-24 inches of the curb, where stormwater carries debris. Even when parked cars, narrow roads, or obstacles prevent full-width sweeping, cleaning a majority of the road meets NJDEP's expectations

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Why can't sweepers always reach both curbs?

Real streets have real limitations. Sweepers may be blocked by vehicles, tight roads, utility poles, fire plugs, storm drains, mailboxes, or driveways- and that's OK! The machine must maintain safe distance from pedestrians and traffic.

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What should residents expect if sweeping hasn't been done in many years?

Streaks or trails of debris are normal, especially on streets that haven't been swept in many years. These cosmetic imperfections do not reduce environmental effectiveness.

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How can residents help improve results?

Residents can support sweeping by clearing trash and weeds from the curblane, avoid blowing leaves into the street, and reporting large debris piles. These small actions that make big impacts over time.

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Why does the Borough use water during sweeping?

Water keeps dust from becoming airborne, contains debris so it can be collected, and protects residents with respiratory sensitivities. It is a best practice for both safety and environmental compliance.

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Why might the street still look dusty afterward?

Sweepers remove pollutants, they do not polish streets. Streaks and debris are normal, especially on older roads or streets that haven't been swept in years. These cosmetic imperfections do not reduce environmental value.

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Who pays for street sweeping?

The Borough pays for street sweeping with funding from the Clean Communities Grant. This grant is from the State of New Jersey, and street sweeping is one of the very specific approved uses of these funds.



BOTTOM LINE

Street sweeping is not cosmetic—it is an essential environmental practice that protects stormwater quality, reduces flooding, and improves air quality. Even when sweeping isn't curb-to-curb, it still removes the pollutants that matter most.

TOGETHER, WE KEEP
STRATFORD
A Clean Community