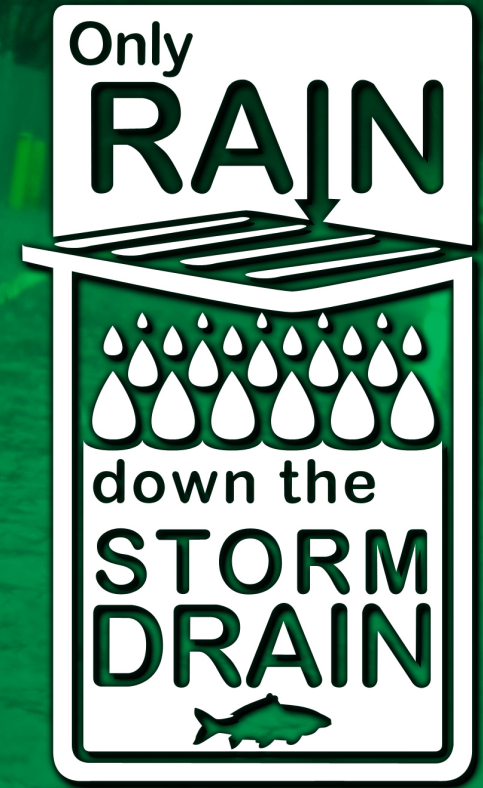


## GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- The Division of Waste Collection & Disposal will dispose of most hazardous waste, such as paint and oil, properly. Contact Waste at (216) 664-2156.
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up and properly dispose of any animal waste. The best method is flushing animal waste so it can be treated, or bag it and toss it in the trash. Leaving animal waste on the ground increases the risk of harmful bacteria being washed into the nearest storm drain.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers carefully and sparingly. Any spills on pavement washes into storm drains. Grass clippings and mulched leaves are great natural fertilizers. Leaves and grass clippings should never be raked or dumped into storm drains because when they decay their debris reduces the oxygen available to fish and other aquatic life.
- Minimize paved surfaces around your home. Use porous compounds like bricks, flagstone, sand or gravel in the construction of driveways, walkways and patios. These absorbent materials allow water to drain into the ground, reducing runoff. Install a rain barrel or rain garden to harvest and reuse stormwater. Position gutters and roof downspouts to drain onto grass or into gardens.
- Take your vehicle to a carwash where water is recycled and cleaning solutions can be better managed. At home, wash your car over grass, using mild, biodegradable, phosphate-free soap. Maintain your car so it will not leak oil, antifreeze, gasoline or other fluids. Such pollutants move with rainwater or snowmelt to storm drains.



City of Cleveland  
Department of Public Utilities  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
12302 Kirby Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44108



Report Illegal Dumping  
(216) 664 -DUMP  
[www.clevelandwpc.com](http://www.clevelandwpc.com)



## WOULD YOU DUMP OIL, PAINT, GRASS CLIPPINGS OR PET WASTE INTO YOUR LOCAL STREAM OR LAKE ERIE?

The wastewater from your home and the ground water that goes down the storm drain on your street could flow into local streams and end up in Lake Erie untreated. When that happens, water pollution occurs. Understanding how your actions can impact water quality is the first step toward reducing water pollution.

## PROPER USE OF STORM DRAINS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY, WHILE PROTECTING OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS. . .

Most of Cleveland has a combined sewer system, meaning wastewater and stormwater travel in the same pipe to one of three treatment plants located in the city. However, during periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt the stormwater and wastewater volume in a combined sewer system can exceed capacity of the sewer system or treatment plant. As a result, combined sewer systems overflow occasionally and discharge excess wastewater and other pollutants directly into nearby streams, rivers or other bodies of water.

Combined sewer overflows (CSO) are a major water pollution concern. By reducing stormwater runoff from your property you can help reduce the amount of pollution that gets carried to local waterways, especially Lake Erie which is Northeast Ohio's main source of drinking water.

When storm drains are misused, clogged or polluted, they also can increase flooding and damage your property. Anything - trash, leaves, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, pet waste - that is carried by rainfall, snowmelt or sprinklers as it flows over our streets and yards can end up in our sewer system and ultimately creeks, streams and Lake Erie.

## BE THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION. . .

Dispose of chemicals properly, use natural fertilizers and pickup after your pets. These small gestures can help yield big environmental rewards.

## LET'S BUILD SOMETHING

Construction and other earth-disturbing activities, contribute large quantities of soil/sediment to streams. They are carried there through storm drains and ditches. The accumulation of sediment in local streams, the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie reduces their waterbed capacity, increases flooding, and smothers aquatic spawning areas.

- Don't disturb any more ground than necessary. The best way to save money and soil is to keep the soil covered. You should leave a border of grass around any section of soil that is exposed, such as the construction of a garage or addition. A border provides cover and helps prevent soil/sediment from being washed off the site by rain or snowmelt.
- If your project is adjacent to a road or stream, use a barrier structure (i.e. silt fencing) to keep the sediment from getting into the storm drain or waterway. Keep vehicles on paved or stone surfaces to prevent tracking soil off site.
- Immediately seed, sod or mulch after all ground disturbances are completed or if ground disturbances will be temporarily stopped for at least 21 days. Sediment negatively impacts your wallet by causing flood damage and decreasing property values. Sediment also negatively impacts water quality by degrading the habitat of aquatic organisms and fish and promoting the growth of weeds and algae.
- For more information on soil erosion controls for your home project, contact the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District at (216) 524-6580 or at [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org).

## GET INVOLVED

Dumping is illegal. When you see someone dumping anything into storm drains, report it immediately. Report illegal dumping to (216) 664-DUMP or call the Division of Water Pollution Control at (216) 664-2513. In emergency situations, contact the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Emergency Spill number at (800) 282-9378. Try to call while the dumping is in progress.

Get involved with local environmental activities such as a volunteer or member of a group. Join beach and stream cleanups or check out local watershed groups. You can do your part to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations. Local lakes, rivers, streams and creeks can remain safe for drinking water and accessible for recreational activities like swimming, boating, canoeing and fishing.

Learn more about stormwater management and what local environmental groups are doing to promote clean water by going to the Division of Water Pollution Control's website at [www.clevelandwpc.com](http://www.clevelandwpc.com).

**REMEMBER:  
ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!**