



**Division of Water Pollution Control  
12302 Kirby Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44108  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**CLEVELAND, OHIO, July 1, 2013**—The Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control (WPC) began phase II of its *Only Rain Down the Storm Drain* campaign. The campaign informs Cleveland residents how personal actions can impact water quality and details steps to decrease stormwater runoff and reduce the amount of contaminants flowing to area streams, the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie.

“Exposure to the Only Rain Down the Storm Drain campaign will educate people on how small changes in behavior can be a major benefit to the health and safety of all residents,” said WPC Commissioner Rachid Zoghaib. “I believe when people know better they tend to do better.”

Through the use of street kiosk posters, literature, billboards, television programming, social media and other promotional methods, the multi-layered campaign will show citizens specific ways they can make a positive environmental difference. The current kiosk posters are red.

Phase II of the campaign focuses on the proper disposal of hazardous household waste. In general, hazardous household chemicals are those that can become ignitable, reactive, corrosive and/or toxic, such as cleaners, paint, automotive products and fertilizers. Even products that appear harmless can be problematic if allowed to seep into local waterways. Contaminants carried by stormwater runoff can harm aquatic life, land animals and create hazardous swimming conditions.

**Some tips to properly handle hazardous household chemicals:**

- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean up ground spills. Washing chemicals into the storm drain will send the toxins untreated to the waterway.
- Do not pour grease or harmful chemicals, such as anti-freeze, oil and paint thinner on the ground.
- Buy only the quantity of chemicals you need so storage and disposal will not be factors.
- Wash your car over grass so the water can be absorbed, and use mild, biodegradable, phosphate-free soap.
- Household hazardous waste should not be put out with trash. Help keep landfills free of harmful substances.

Citizens should report instances of illegal dumping into sewers by calling (216) 664-DUMP. It is illegal to pour grease or other substances into a sewer catch basin. Violators can be fined up to \$500 for each occurrence that causes damage to the City's sewer system.

**Current Locations of Only Rain Down the Storm Drain posters:**

- E. 185 Street & Neff Road
- W. 140 Street & Puritas Avenue
- Lee Road & Harvard Avenue
- Euclid Avenue & E. 30 Street
- Superior Avenue & E. 17 Street
- Euclid Avenue & E. 36 Street
- Chester Avenue & E. 30 Street
- Prospect Avenue & E. 30 Street
- St. Clair & E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street

**For more information on disposing household hazardous waste, contact:**

- The Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control  
(216) 664-2513  
[www.ClevelandWPC.com](http://www.ClevelandWPC.com)
- The Cleveland Division of Waste Collection & Disposal  
(216) 664-3717  
[www.city.cleveland.oh.us](http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us)
- The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District  
(216) 524-6580  
[www.cuyahogaswcd.org](http://www.cuyahogaswcd.org)

For more information about the Only Rain Down the Storm Drain campaign and stormwater management in general, please visit [www.ClevelandWPC.com](http://www.ClevelandWPC.com).

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*The Division of Water Pollution Control is responsible for managing the sanitary sewage and stormwater collection system within the City of Cleveland. The system is comprised of 1,436 miles of sewer lines, with attendant catch basins and 15 pump stations. WPC cleans and services approximately 18,000 catch basins per year to minimize and eliminate potential street and basement flooding.*