

What is Stormwater & How it Affects You

Stormwater is simply water that falls onto the ground from rain or snow events. The water that does not soak into the ground is called stormwater runoff. As stormwater runs off lawns, roofs, driveways, parking lots, and roads, it can flow into our wetlands, streams, lakes, and the rivers and carry pollutants it picks up along the way. The pollutants include oil, grease, gasoline, lead and cadmium from the roads; pesticides, herbicides and animal waste from residential areas & farmlands; and dirt from construction sites, to name a few. Added to this list are items improperly disposed of into storm drains or on the ground.

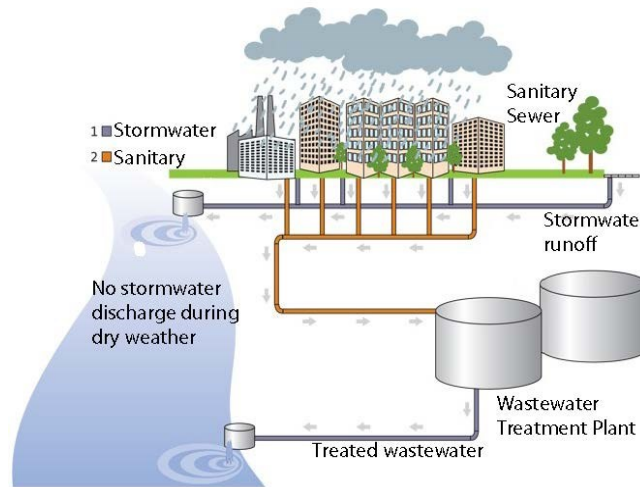
All these contaminants end up in waterways, wetlands, ponds, lakes, and can impact shellfish beds, fish and animal habitat, recreational swimming, and even our drinking water.

Illegal dumping and putting anything down a storm drain is another cause of water pollution. To lessen pollution, we all need to do our part and change our habits. Your efforts along with your neighbors can make a difference.

Disposing of Unwanted Pool Chemicals

Most unwanted pool chemicals must be disposed as hazardous waste. Contact Allen County Department of Environmental Management at (260) 449-7878 on where to take hazardous waste. Or check their website at www.acwastewatcher.org

Stormwater vs. Sanitary Wastewater



Find out more about stormwater management at:

www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities

To report a stormwater drainage issue or to report illegal dumping call 311 or (260) 427-8311

Swimming Pools and Spas

A Reference Guide for Fort Wayne Residents



It is against the law to drain swimming pool, spa, hot tub, fountain or backwash water to a storm drain system.

Pool Water Pollutes - Dispose of it Properly

Did you know that you may be harming your local creek and river if you drain your swimming pool or spa water into the gutter? Water in pools and spas are treated with a variety of chemicals (such as chlorine and algaecides) to keep organisms from living in it; if that water is discharged to a storm drain, it will eventually reach a creek or river where chemicals can cause harm.



Know Where it Flows

Thiosulfate may be used to rid the water of chlorine if your stabilizer is high. No adequate way exists to disperse of the silver and copper in the water that may result from the use of mineral systems. The best practice is to gradually drain your pool to a swale or rain garden over more than one day. Wait for dry conditions to avoid ponding or offsite runoff that will occur during wet conditions.



STORMWATER

Cleaning Pool Filters

Don't clean pool filters where the debris or wastewater will go into a storm drain. Wastewater from filter cleaning may be discharged to the sanitary sewer as long as solids are removed. Pool filter backwash connections that are plumbed to the sanitary sewer must include a settling tank to removed diatomaceous earth. If you are hosing off a filter with water, do so over a lawn, planter box or vegetated or dirt area that will absorb the wash water. Collect materials (such as spent diatomaceous earth filter media) on a filter cloth placed over the discharge surface and then throw the filter cloth and filter media in the trash upon completion of filter cleaning.

Lower Chemical Levels Before Draining

Allow chlorine levels to drop to zero before draining your pool. Do not add chemicals or disinfectants for one week prior to draining. Test your water before draining to determine chlorine, stabilizer and TDS (total dissolved solids, usually salt) levels. It is illegal to drain chlorine to a storm system, creek, or any water body either directly or indirectly.

You may drain your pool onto your grass, preferably so the water drains to swales or rain gardens where the water can slowly percolate into the ground. Do not allow flow to leave your property. Rain gardens are not recommended for pool water which high levels of cyanuric acid (stabilizer) or salt exist (common with liquid and electronic generator use) unless you have salt tolerant species planted.

Draining Your Pool or Spa

Using the sanitary sewer is best.

If you need to drain your pool or spa it is best to discharge the water to the sanitary sewer, since the sanitary sewer system is conveyed to a treatment plant where it is designed to remove most chemicals found in pools and spas. Your pool may have a permanent indirect connection to the sanitary sewer. If not, you can pump the water from the pool or spa into an interior laundry sink or other plumbing fixture or to a sewer cleanout (typically located in your front or backyard).

Never open a manhole to discharge the water!

When discharging water to the sanitary sewer make sure the flow rate is slow enough that it does not cause the sewer to back up and overflow into your house, your neighbor's house, or onto the street.

Deck Cleaning

Sweep or blow your deck instead of using water.



When water is necessary for cleaning use flow control to minimize water usage. When using chlorine, acid, or chemical cleaners direct diluted wash water to a grassy area. Concentrated cleaning agents cannot be discharged to the environment.