



Separate Storm Sewers

What's the Problem With Dumping Stuff Down the Drain?

Doesn't it all get treated anyway? NO! The storm system and wastewater systems are separate. What goes down the toilet goes to the wastewater treatment plant, where the water is processed and cleaned before being released back into our waterways. What goes down storm drains flows directly into our environment. As storm water flows (or snow melts), it picks up debris, chemicals (like fertilizers and pesticides), dirt, cigarette butts, and other pollutants. These pollutants enter the storm sewer system and are discharged into a lake, stream, river, or wetland. Because of this pollution, our local waterways are now impaired and aquatic life is suffering. And this is mainly due to our own negligence and carelessness with common pollutants. So the moral of the story is this:
If it's on the ground, it's in your water.



Facts and Figures

- Today, nonpoint source (NPS) pollution remains the nation's largest source of water quality problems. Nonpoint source pollution is generated by all of us, a product of millions of actions that we take each day, including activities such as applying pesticides, fertilizing our lawns, or the manner in which we dispose of oil.
- A detailed study by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management found that 36% of Indiana's rivers and streams are not clean enough to fully support all aquatic life.
- The same study found that over 40% of Indiana's rivers and streams are unsafe even for swimming and boating. In over 3,500 stream miles, the amount of e. Coli bacteria signified unsafe recreation levels.

What YOU Can Do

- Don't dump anything into storm drains. This is a violation! Storm drains lead directly into our waterways.
- **Report a Polluter:** If you see someone dumping illegally into storm drains or water bodies, report it to the appropriate city agency on the reverse side.
- Volunteer to help mark the storm drains in your neighborhood. These markers help deter people from dumping pollutants down the drain. We will provide you with the decals and tools. Contact your local city or town at the number on the reverse side if you are interested in helping. Our goal is to get every storm drain in our city's of Johnson County marked. We need your help.
- What should you do with chemicals, cleaning products, and old paint that you don't need anymore? Take it to the TOX BOX, Johnson County's household hazardous waste collection site. The TOX BOX is located at the Franklin Transfer Station, 730 Industrial Drive in Franklin, The program is free to Johnson County residents with the exception of latex paint disposal which is \$1.50/ gallon or \$1.00/ quart.

Call 317-738-2546 or 317-736-4542
for additional information
or go to www.recyclejohnsoncounty.org
to download an informational brochure.