

Storm Water

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation flows over the ground to a lake, stream, or river. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, and buildings prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Foreign substances, such as debris and chemicals, are dissolved in water at the surface and transported with storm water into streams, rivers, and other water bodies, causing pollution.



The following are examples of potential sources of storm water pollution in your community.

- Lawn chemicals can add fertilizers and herbicides to storm water.
- Oil stains on your driveway can be washed into storm water.
- Yard wastes
- Any chemicals left outdoors and exposed to storm water have the potential to pollute it.

Once pollution reaches water bodies, it can poison fish, damage ecosystems, and even end up in water used for drinking or recreation. Protecting our water bodies from all sources of contamination can be accomplished through the cooperation of residents, government, and businesses.

For more Information on Pollution Prevention

Visit IDEM's Storm Water Webpage:

[IDEM: Storm Water Permitting: Home](https://www.IN.gov/idem/stormwater)

<https://www.IN.gov/idem/stormwater>

Help your kids learn about storm water:

[Learning and Teaching about the Environment | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/students)

<https://www.epa.gov/students>

Learn more about storm water and local events through the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District:

[Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District – Soil, Water and Related Natural Resources \(allenswcd.org\)](https://www.allenswcd.org)

For more information on local storm water issues:

- Visit the City's Storm Water webpage.
- Visit the Engineering Department at 815 Lincoln Highway E..

Storm Water Pollution Prevention: Protecting Your Waterways



New Haven has been designated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, or IDEM, as a municipal separate storm sewer system, or MS4, and is required to comply with a state-issued storm water permit. New Haven is implementing a program to prevent storm water pollution and improve the water quality of local water bodies.

As part of this program, ordinances have been issued to protect storm water. One ordinance is for prohibiting illicit connections to the storm sewer and illegal dumping. Only rain water should enter storm drains or surface waters.

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What can you do to prevent storm water pollution?

- Sweep up debris, rather than hosing down areas.
- Clean up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in a trash container or toilet. When left outdoors, pet waste contributes bacteria and nutrients to storm water.
- Cover piles of soil and mulch being used for landscaping projects.
- Prevent debris from entering nearby storm drains when conducting outdoor home improvement or landscaping projects.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved surface to reduce the amount of dirty, soapy water entering storm drains and waterways.
- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit shows non-detectable levels of chlorine and bromine.
- If you have a septic system, have it serviced regularly. Make sure it is not connected to the storm sewer or polluting a creek or body of water.



- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, and other products. Don't dispose of hazardous products in storm drains, alleys, or on the ground. This pollutes the drinking water supply.
- Clean up your property. Properly dispose of outdated or unused household chemicals stored in your basement, garage, or barn and do not store these materials outdoors.
- Do not store open containers, pails, buckets or pans of oils and chemicals outdoors.
- Reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals that you use. Buy only what you need so that you don't have to dispose of leftovers. Read all the labels and follow directions.

For information on Household Hazardous Waste Disposal visit the [Household Hazardous Waste Disposal | Allen County Department of Environmental Management \(acwastewatcher.org\)](http://www.acwastewatcher.org).



Yard Waste

Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard wastes that end up on City streets and sidewalks are a potential source of storm water pollution that can make their way to storm drains, drainageways, and rivers.

- Yard waste can clog storm drains and cause drainage and flooding issues.
- Yard waste can add excessive nutrients to waterways, leading to harmful algae growth and fish kills.
- Blow grass clippings back into your yard. They are good for lawns and act as a natural fertilizer helping them grow, greener, thicker and healthier.
- Grass clippings on pavement can be slippery for motorcycles and bicycles.

See Pollution?

To report discharges of pollutants to the storm water system, **call the City at 317-786-5489.**

