

Clermont County Illicit Discharge Regulations

In June 2007, Clermont County adopted new regulations prohibiting illegal connections and illicit discharges to the storm water system, which includes open channels and streams as well as storm sewers, as required under state law.

What do the regulations prohibit?

- ✘ Directly discharging anything that is not composed entirely of storm water into the storm sewer system or into County waterways.
- ✘ Connecting any structure that carries anything other than storm water to the storm sewer system or County waterways.

What do the regulations permit?

Exempt discharges from everyday activities include:

- Draining the water from a swimming pool. Tip: Drain *only after the water has been dechlorinated (usually 2-3 days after last chlorine application)*
- Washing cars at home
- Watering lawns and irrigating landscapes

- Water from crawl spaces and foundation drains
- Any others that do not conflict with Federal or State permits or cause pollution to Ohio's waterways.

What is the storm sewer system?

The storm sewer system is more than just storm drains. It includes roads, storm sewers, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and detention ponds, swales, ditches, streams, rivers, lakes and any natural or human-made channels that carry storm water runoff.

REMEMBER...Storm water runoff flows directly to our streams. It does not go to a treatment plant!

Where Storm Water Goes After the Curb Inlet



Hazardous waste disposal sites:

Check the Clermont County Recycling Guide at www.oeq.net for local disposal sites

If no local disposal options are available, residents may obtain a voucher for free disposal at Environmental Enterprises from the Clermont Solid Waste District. Call 732-7894 for details.

Clean Harbors Env'tl Services

4879 Spring Grove Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45232
(513) 681-6242

Environmental Enterprises

4650 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45232
(513) 541-1823

Rollins Environmental Services

3368 Turfway Road
Erlanger, KY 41018
(859) 371-3666

For more information, contact the Clermont County Storm Water Department at (513) 732-7880.



Clermont County Stormwater Department
2379 Clermont Center Drive
Batavia, OH 45103
(513) 732-7880

Household Guide to Illegal Discharges and Storm Water Pollution Prevention



What is storm water runoff and why is it important?

Storm water runoff is any water flowing across a surface, not being absorbed, that is a product of rain, melting snow or ice.

Contaminated storm water is a source of pollutants in Clermont County creeks, rivers, and lakes. Storm drains carry runoff from streets, residential and commercial areas, industrial sites, and open spaces *directly into our surface waters*. We even get some of our drinking water from these surface waters. So be careful what you put into the storm sewer system because...



Storm water does not go to treatment plants.

How can storm water pollution be prevented at home?

There are many activities that we participate in everyday that can contribute to storm water pollution. Here are some of those activities and some tips on how they can be done safely and mindfully of storm water pollution prevention:

- **Automobile care.** Always use a drip pan when performing oil changes outdoors. If you spill motor oil or other fluids, don't hose the spill into the gutter or ditch. Instead, spread

kitty litter or oil dry to absorb the spill, then sweep it up and dispose of properly. Never dump motor oil, antifreeze, or any other chemicals down the storm drain. *One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water!* Report potentially dangerous spills to Ohio EPA at (800) 282-9378,. Call 911 if there is a threat to human health or safety.



TIP: Inspect and maintain your car to keep oil, antifreeze, and other fluids from leaking. Some garages and gas stations will accept used motor oil and antifreeze for recycling, but may charge a fee. The Clermont County Fleet Maintenance garage on Filager Road in Batavia Township accepts used automotive fluids for free.

When washing your vehicle at home, wash it in the grass to avoid the drainage of cleaners and chemicals into the gutters and storm drains.

- **Household painting.** Brushes used with water-based (latex) paint should be rinsed *in the sink*. If you have a small amount of

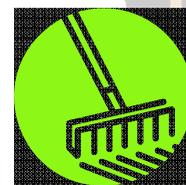


paint left in the can, put some absorbent material in the can, and let the paint dry out completely, then put it in the trash. Some paints and solvents contain harmful chemicals and are a threat to aquatic life if they are allowed into the storm sewer system.

TIP: Save and reuse paint thinner and turpentine whenever you can. Leftover paint and paint thinner can be taken to Clean Harbors Environmental Service, Environmental Enterprises, and Rollins Environmental Services (see back page for all contact info.) for disposal. For more information on safe painting practices, check www.clermontstorm.net

- **Lawn and Garden.** Lawn care, landscaping, and pest control can be major contributors to storm water pollution. Fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides can run off your lawn into the storm sewer and then to local streams where pollutants can harm or kill aquatic life. Avoid excessive watering and application of chemicals to your lawn or garden to minimize the amount of these substances entering local rivers and streams.

TIP: Sweep up grass clippings and leaves before they enter a storm drain. Nutrients and other chemicals can leach from yard waste and enter our streams. Yard waste can also clog drains and cause flooding.



COMPOST leaves and grass clippings, and use the compost to enrich and condition your soil. Or put your leaves out for collection in communities where this service is provided.

TIP: Look for low phosphate fertilizers. Most mature lawns need more nitrogen than phosphate found in most products. Also try using an organic substitute which is less concentrated. These are sold at most lawn and garden retailers.

- **Household Waste.** Almost every household product that is typically kept out of the reach of children is hazardous. Never pour these products down the storm drain



because they can be toxic to the environment. Some common household hazardous products include: **air freshener, bleach, drain cleaners, furniture polish, hand cleaners, linoleum floor cleaners, metal polishes, toilet bowl cleaners, window cleaners.**

TIP: Dispose of any hazardous household chemicals at one of the following approved household hazardous waste sites on the back of this handout.

- **Pet waste.** When pet waste is left on the ground, harmful bacteria can be carried away by storm water to contaminate our streams, some of which we use as a source for our drinking water. Be sure to clean up after your pet.



TIP: Put pet waste in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash can, or the toilet.

For more storm water pollution prevention tips, visit www.clermontstorm.net