



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

Public Works & Utilities
Department of Stormwater
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August is National Water Quality Month and even though $\frac{3}{4}$ of the earth's surface is covered with water, less than one percent is drinkable. This is a sobering fact, especially when you also consider that water pollution is a primary cause of impairments. (For more information go to <http://bit.ly/2aM1S1a>)

Find out more about how the Goshen Water Utility strives to provide quality drinking water to all people by reading the 2016 Goshen Water Utility Consumer Confidence Report: <http://bit.ly/2biAQbj>

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic or reactive ingredients are considered to be "household hazardous waste" (HHW). HHW includes products such as oil based paints, cleaners, oils, Ni-Cad/Lithium batteries, unused or expired medications, pesticides or other items that contain potentially hazardous ingredients. These products are safe to use when you follow the manufacturer's instructions, but they require special handling when you are ready to dispose of them. If disposed of improperly, these wastes can pollute the environment and they can pose a threat to human health. HHW should not be poured down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or placed in a dumpster or the weekly trash pickup.



So what should be done with household hazardous waste?

Any household hazardous waste should be saved and brought to one of the monthly Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Days sponsored by the Elkhart County Solid Waste Management District (SWMD). All Elkhart County residents are welcomed to drop off waste generated from their homes. HHW Drop Off Days are held on the first Saturday of every month from 8am to 3pm at the Elkhart County Correctional Facility on County Road 7 just north of County Road 26. For more information about HHW Drop Off Days **city residents** can contact the Elkhart County Solid Waste District at 574-522-2581, visit the SWMD's webpage at <http://bit.ly/2bfKeAv>, or check out the City's stormwater HHW webpage for more information (<http://goshenindiana.org/household-hazardous-waste>). Another helpful resource is earth911.com.

City Departments can contact the Stormwater Department for help in figuring out how to dispose of unused or old hazardous waste materials. A rule of thumb is "if it hasn't been used in the last year don't keep it around." It is important to not stockpile hazardous materials in order to reduce the potential for spills and associated clean up costs.





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Top Ten Stormwater Myths

10. Stormwater is clean. Fact: Stormwater transports many different kinds of pollutants like trash, sediment, oils, pet wastes, etc.

9. Stormwater drains lead to treatment plants. Fact: Most stormwater drains lead to our local waterways with little to know treatment. Although some storm drains flow into a combined sanitary sewer system, which flows to the wastewater treatment plant or combined sewer overflow detention facility.

8. The pollutants in stormwater are not really harmful. Fact: Stormwater pollutants are harmful and widespread, meaning a little bit here and a little bit there adds up. For example, sediment clogs fish gills, one drop of oil will contaminate 17.1 gallons of water, plastic trash is mistaken for food by many aquatic organisms, fertilizers (nutrients) cause unsightly algae blooms.

7. Stormwater flows only to local streams. Fact: Stormwater flows into stormwater catch basins, combined sanitary sewers, retention/detention basins, vegetated swales or ditches, but eventually it will reach all types of water bodies ranging from local streams to the oceans.

6. Stormwater is mainly an urban problem. Fact: Stormwater is an everywhere problem. In rural areas stormwater runs across farm fields and pastures picking up fertilizers, pesticides, manure, while in urban areas stormwater runs across many different hard surface areas and into adjacent waterways.

5. Industries are the greatest source of water pollution. Fact: Industries historically were the greatest source of point source water pollution, but the Clean Water Act helped to greatly reduce point source pollution. The biggest source of water pollution today is non-point source pollution (otherwise known as stormwater pollution), which comes from many different sources as rainfall or snowmelt flow over and through the ground.

4. Roads are responsible for most of the state's stormwater runoff. Fact: Stormwater is generated on any impervious or hard surface area (roads, roofs, parking lots, gravel, compacted soils, etc.).

3. The state should take care of all stormwater pollution. Fact: The solution to stormwater pollution lies within each of us and the decisions we make daily. Decisions like picking up after your pet, using only as much fertilizer as your yard needs, sweeping up grass clippings, disposing of used oil, paint, chemicals at a local household hazardous drop off, building vegetated buffer strips along waterways, stabilizing bare areas of soil, and many more.

2. Stormwater pollution will eventually go away. Fact: Stormwater pollution will continue to exist as long as water runs off of hard surface areas and it is our responsibility to do something about it.

1. No real solutions exist to solve our stormwater problem. Fact: There are many solutions ranging from green infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavement) to stormwater treatment units, to trees, to stabilization of bare soil, to Goshen's MS4 programs, and many more!