



# City of Goshen

## STORMWATER TOOLBOX

**Public Works & Utilities**  
**Department of Stormwater**  
**204 E. Jefferson Street**  
**Goshen, Indiana 46528**  
**574-534-2201**

**Stormwater Superintendent:**  
**Dustin Sailor**  
**Stormwater Coordinator:**  
**Jason Kauffman— 537-3832**

**Small Project** examples include installing a swimming pool; installing a new section of sidewalk or driveway; digging up an area of yard to install irrigation lines, fences, etc.; installation of a deck; landscaping areas with bare soil, etc.

### Small Projects can Cause Big Problems

Many assume larger construction projects have a higher potential for stormwater issues related to sediment or other pollutants. But all the little projects in our community, that don't fall under the stormwater guidelines, can be contributors too, and if not properly addressed can add up into a cumulative water quality issue. When working on small projects at home or work keep the following steps in mind to help prevent stormwater pollution:

- 1) Be mindful of the weather. If it is going to rain make sure all areas of bare soil are properly stabilized and/or protected. If you are applying fertilizers, pesticides, or hydromulch the next 24 hours must be rain free.
  - ❖ Remember prevent erosion first and control sediment second.
  - ❖ For more information on the impact of sediment follow this link: [bit.ly/sed-pollution](http://bit.ly/sed-pollution).
- 2) Make sure all chemicals are in sealed containers and are under cover and within secondary containment so a spill is immediately contained and easy to clean up.
- 3) If the hole you are working in fills with water, proper dewatering techniques must be followed.
  - ❖ Muddy water should be discharged to a stable area of vegetation not the street, a storm drain, or a body of water.
  - ❖ Use a filter on the intake hose and a dewatering bag at the outlet pipe to capture the sediment. Make sure the dewatering bag is on a stable surface in order to prevent erosion.
  - ❖ Never discharge water that has been contaminated with oil, grease, or other chemicals. Other treatment methods will be required like an oil/water separator.
  - ❖ The best option is to prevent water from entering the hole in the first place.
- 4) Any project where concrete is installed will generate concrete residue or washout. (The picture to the left is an example of what happens when concrete residue is not cleaned up.)
  - ❖ Any dust or slurry generated during the cutting of concrete should be contained and swept up or vacuumed up immediately.
  - ❖ It is important to properly contain and dispose of all washout water whether washing off the concrete truck chute, a wheelbarrow, tools, boots, etc. At no time should concrete washout be placed on the ground.

5) Timely stabilization of bare soil with seed and appropriate temporary cover (like straw mulch or hydromulch) will moderate the temperature and moisture of the soil helping speed up the seed germination. (The picture to the left shows a small area that was not stabilized after the sidewalk was installed and is beginning to erode into the street.)





# A DROP OF NEWS

## Your Stormwater Newsletter

### Don't Flush it or Pour it Down the Drain

Drains may seem like a quick and easy way to dispose of many things but that convenience can lead to clogged pipes, clogged equipment, and water quality issues. So three rules of thumb to follow are 1) "only rain down the storm drain," 2) only water and soap down the kitchen drain," and 3) "the toilet is only meant to flush the three P's—pee, poop, & paper." Everything else should be thrown in the trash, recycled, or composted.

The reason these three rules of thumb are to be followed is because any clog in the pipes inside a home or outside under the ground or street can lead to costly repairs and water quality issues. Fats, oils, and grease (a.k.a. FOG) and the misnamed "flushable wipes" are the two biggest causes of sanitary sewer clogs, which can lead to sanitary backups into homes, business, streets and storm drains, and local waterways.

To find out more about how the Goshen Wastewater Department deals with the impacts of improper dumping check out their Lift Stations webpage: [www.goshenindiana.org/lift-stations](http://www.goshenindiana.org/lift-stations). To learn more about the problem of flushable wipes check out this story: [bit.ly/wet-wipes-gone-wild](http://bit.ly/wet-wipes-gone-wild).



A clogged pipe caused by the dumping of FOGs down the drain. Photo Credit: City of Elkhart

To ensure FOG does not clog pipes in a home or under the ground or street, keep the following Do's and Don'ts in mind:

- DO** - Properly dispose of cooking oil by pouring it into a heat-proof, sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash.
- DO** - Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- DO** - Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them. Then throw away the paper towels.
- DO** - Use a sink strainer to catch food items, then empty the strainer into the trash.
- DON'T** - Use a garbage disposal or food grinder. Grinding food up does not remove FOG. (Note: Commercial food preparers are no longer allowed to have Food waste disposal units.)
- DON'T** - Pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings, or sauces down the sink or toilet.
- DON'T** - Use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean greasy or oily dishware. When you wash them, the grease will end up in the sewer. Source: [bit.ly/Elkhart-FOG](http://bit.ly/Elkhart-FOG)

For more information check out the following resources:

- ❖ December 2015 Goshen Stormwater Toolbox Newsletter - [bit.ly/12-clogs-of-Christmas](http://bit.ly/12-clogs-of-Christmas)
- ❖ 49 things you shouldn't flush or pour down the drain - Wessler Engineering Blog - [bit.ly/no-flush\\_no-dump](http://bit.ly/no-flush_no-dump)
- ❖ Cease the Grease - [www.ceasethegreasentx.com](http://www.ceasethegreasentx.com)

#### Report an Illicit Discharge

An illicit discharge is anything other than rain that could flow or be washed into a storm drain. If you see something that doesn't look right please call 574-534-2201, send an email to [jason.kauffman@gohsencity.com](mailto:jason.kauffman@gohsencity.com), or submit a Stormwater Report through the City of Goshen's new "Report an Issue" button in the upper corner of the City's website ([www.goshenindiana.org](http://www.goshenindiana.org)).

