



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

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

bit.ly/goshen-stormwater

Stormwater Superintendent:
Dustin Sailor

Stormwater Coordinator:
Jason Kauffman— 537-3832

Thank You!

To each and every City employee, the Stormwater Department would like to extend our sincerest thank you for all of the work you have done this year to prevent stormwater pollution from occurring and to recognize and report it so the impacts to our local waterways could be minimized.

- ❖ Thank you for sweeping the streets to remove excess sediment, grass clippings, and trash so it would not clog up storm drains.
- ❖ Thank you for cleaning out catch basins and stormwater treatment units to remove accumulated sediment, trash, and oils.

- ❖ Thank you for being vigilant at the gas pump to avoid over topping of a tank and spilling fuel.
- ❖ Thank you for closing dumpster lids every day to prevent the creation of dumpster tea.
- ❖ Thank you for responding to spills promptly and helping to clean them up properly.
- ❖ Thank you for making sure grass clippings and leaves are kept out of the streets and for helping to remove residential yard waste to the Environmental Center.
- ❖ Thank you for planting new trees and maintaining existing trees so they can capture rainfall and reduce stormwater runoff.



- ❖ Thank you for placing materials in secondary containment every day.
- ❖ Thank you for monitoring Fats, Oils, and Grease.
- ❖ Thank you for monitoring and maintaining our sanitary sewer to avoid combined and sanitary sewer overflows.
- ❖ Thank You!

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." –Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

"If you want to learn about this place, you have to take care of this place, and then it will reveal itself to you." - Sabra Kauka

"Water has a voice. It carries a message that tells those downstream who you are and how you care for the land." — Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Association



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Thanksgiving and its Connection to Stormwater

The following is borrowed and modified from the November 2016 edition of the Roanoke Stormwater Newsletter *The River Keeper* (www.roanokeva.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8743):

Thanksgiving is a time for family and feasting, but when the meal is over, are you properly disposing of your fats, oils, and grease (FOG) waste? FOG are often disposed of improperly. FOG comes from meats, butter, lard, food scraps, sauces, dressings, dairy products, and cooking oil. Some methods of improper disposal may seem obvious as a bad choice, such as dumping used cooking oil down the storm drain, but even washing greasy residues down the kitchen drain can create problems.

Improper disposal of FOG can lead to property damage, health hazards, and environmental problems. Pipes may become blocked by FOG poured down the drain, even if diluted with hot, soapy water. Grease transforms back into a solid as it cools. As FOG builds up in the wastewater system it catches on items like wipes and other sanitary items, leading to "fatbergs" that create blockages. The largest example of a fatberg was discovered in September of this year in one of London's sewers. A fatberg weighing an estimated 143.3 tons (equal to 11 double-decker buses) and stretching 820 feet, 32.8 feet longer than London's famous Tower Bridge (bit.ly/London_Fatberg).

FOG can run into a nearby stream or river, which affects our drinking water. Oils pollute streams and creeks by forming a film on the water's surface, which prevents oxygenation for aquatic life. Polluted stormwater runoff can lead to excessive and costly maintenance and cleanup.



Used cooking oil dumped down a residential storm drain, which is considered an illicit discharge and is not proper disposal method.



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

Here is what you can do to prevent FOG related issues:

- ❖ **Don't pour your Thanksgiving grease down the drain.**
- ❖ If you can't reuse your used cooking oil, pour it into a sturdy closed lid container and dispose of it in the trash.
- ❖ Cover the kitchen sink with a catch basket and empty into the garbage can as needed.
- ❖ Scrape plates over trash can or dry wipe with paper towels.
- ❖ Damp paper towels with a bit of soap can also be used to remove grease and oil residue and then wiped with a dry paper towel.
- ❖ **Remember: The drain is not a dump and garbage disposals don't fight FOG.**

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 jasonkauffman@goshencity.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).

