



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

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

Stormwater Superintendent:
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Stormwater Coordinator:
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Where to Donate or Dispose of Old Items

- ❖ **Local secondhand store (e.g. Goodwill or Habitat ReStore)**
- ❖ **Consignment Store**
- ❖ **Recycling it**
- ❖ **Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day (e.g. e-waste, button batteries, CFL bulbs, etc.)**
- ❖ **Check out Earth911.com for more details**

In with the New and Out with the Old

During the holiday season, many people are thinking about what they want to give/buy their loved ones. However, they should also be thinking about what to do with the old stuff? Especially the electronic stuff, also known as e-waste, and the batteries that go with them.

Electronics and batteries contain different hazardous materials that, if not disposed of properly, can cause environmental damage and affect our health. Did you know "40% of the heavy metals found [in landfills] including lead, mercury, and cadmium, comes from electronics that have not been properly recycled." See the All Green Blog at bit.ly/2gMSHs8 for more information. Over time these hazardous materials can work their way into the soil, water, and air where they will impact our health the health of wildlife.



The responsibility to properly dispose of electronics and batteries when they are outdated or broken lies with the consumer and it is important to remember that the cost of a new electronic device goes beyond the price tag.

For information on how to properly dispose of e-waste, batteries, and other items, visit the Earth911.com Recycling Search webpage: search.earth911.com. Additionally, if you live within the city limits of Goshen, you can take advantage of the drop off days at the Goshen Street Department during "Beautify Goshen Week" in May.

For more information on the impacts of e-waste on the environment and human health, check out the following articles:

- ❖ Wessler Engineering Blog – How are Fish like Light Bulbs? - bit.ly/2g0JkHR
- ❖ Greenpeace – What's in electronic devices? - bit.ly/2gIbOYj
- ❖ NRDC - The Facts about Light Bulbs and Mercury - on.nrdc.org/2gbeU3d

**Happy Holidays from the Goshen
 Stormwater Department!**





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Food & Beverage Packaging is a Major Source of Waterborne Trash

As Americans, we are fortunate to live in a place separated from our trash, yet if you go outside you will not have to search very long before you find a piece of trash. Trash carelessly thrown out of a window or blown from an overflowing trash container eventually makes its way to a waterway by way of stormwater runoff or the wind. Cigarette butts are the most littered item in our waterways, but by volume, food and beverage packaging is the primary type of litter found in our nation's waterways.¹

The solution to stopping trash from entering our local waterways begins with us and here are several tips to consider when eating out:

- ❖ Skip the plastic straw and drink directly from the cup, which has an added benefit of reducing how much you drink. If you really like drinking from a straw, consider purchasing a reusable straw: bit.ly/2gHpaBu.
- ❖ Ditch the Bag. If your food is already wrapped, take it with you and forgo the bag which, most likely, will be thrown in the trash within 15 minutes. "It is estimated that 300 pounds of waste per person each year is generated from just fast food packaging."²
- ❖ Wipe up with one; one napkin, that is. By limiting the number of napkins used, you limit the creation of trash as well.
- ❖ "Remember to recycle. Cups, napkins, wrappers and even some containers can be recycled. Look for recycling bins in or near the restaurant. Consider asking your favorite restaurant to recycle if they don't already do it."²

A final tip is to make sure trash is contained in a covered and water tight container so it does not become a source of stormwater pollution. If you see trash when you are out and about, pick it up and throw it away or recycle it.



Most waterborne trash reaches waterbodies by way of stormwater drainage systems.

Sources: 1) Hydro International In-house Trash Study - bit.ly/2gkRcVi
2- LA Stormwater Blog: Reduce Waste When Eating Out - bit.ly/2gISCHo

Two other good sources of information are:

- ❖ Living Lands & Water - An "industrial strength" river cleanup organization - bit.ly/1bOjg64
- ❖ NRDC article—*Waste in Our Waterways: Unveiling the Hidden Costs to Californians of Litter Clean-Up* - on.nrdc.org/2gKj5mI

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@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).

