



# 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](http://bit.ly/goshen-stormwater)

**Director of Public Works:**  
**Dustin Sailor**  
**Stormwater Coordinator:**  
**Jason Kauffman— 537-3832**

### Best Practices for Power & Pressure Washing

The following information was adapted with permission from New Pig's Expert Advice Blog of the same title as this article. To read their full article, go to the following link: [bit.ly/PowerWash-Goshen](http://bit.ly/PowerWash-Goshen).

Over the course of time, the exteriors of buildings, outdoor equipment, and vehicles can become dirty and dingy looking. Power washing (or pressure washing) will improve the visual appearance and long-term maintenance. The wash water generated by this process must be contained and disposed of properly. Pollutants in wash water could harm plants and animals in waterways and impact water quality.

The following six recommendations need to be considered whenever and wherever power washing will occur. By being prepared, projects will stay on schedule, avoid unnecessary cleanup, and avoid any fines associated with an illicit discharge (materials considered to be an illicit discharge are highlighted [green](#) below).

- 1) **Know where the wash water will go.** If the [wash water](#) will run toward a drain, additional measures are needed, but if it goes to a vegetated area, that is ok.
- 2) **Consider lower water temperature.** [Hot water](#) will introduce [thermal pollution](#) to a waterway, which can hurt aquatic life. [Hot water](#) can also kill nearby vegetation. Furthermore, room temperature water will work just as well and will cost less and reduces the danger to workers.
- 3) **Research [cleaners](#) and [detergents](#).** Even if you decide to use a cleaning agent that is labeled "biodegradable" or "non-toxic" it could still harm aquatic life and impact water quality.
- 4) **Sweep before spraying.** Remove loose materials, like [paint](#) or [dirt](#), before power washing. This will reduce clean up time and the amount of pollutants in the wash water.
- 5) **Contain [wash water](#) and [contaminants](#).** This can be done by using absorbent booms, portable containment berms, or pools to create a containment area or covering storm drains with a solid cover. These practices will contain the water and allow it to be removed with pumps or vacuums for treatment. Another option is to put an inflatable plug in pipes and remove the water for treatment after power washing is completed.
- 6) **Consider [wash water recycling units](#).** This will allow on-site treatment and reduce the potential for discharge to a storm drain.



These recommendations are important to consider because they will protect water quality and aquatic life in our local waterways. Incorporating them and other best practices into every cleaning operation will help keep [sediment](#), [debris](#), [oil](#), and [other contaminants](#) out of storm drains and sanitary sewer systems and keep the project in compliance with local regulations.

When power washing remember  
 "Only Rain Down the Drain."



# A DROP OF NEWS

## Your Stormwater Newsletter

### Summer Pools

The heat of summer has driven many of us to seek comfort in the cooler waters of backyard pools. If you have a pool I hope you enjoy it this summer.

Keep in mind, chlorinated pool water cannot be discharged to a storm drain and is considered an illicit discharge. For more information check out the [Pool Construction & Maintenance](#) informational brochure or call the Goshen Stormwater Department at 574-534-2201.



Picture credit: [www.gullypoolservicefl.com](http://www.gullypoolservicefl.com)

### Stormwater Education Field Trip Incentive Program

The Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership and the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District are excited to announce a new resource for local schools to take advantage of when planning for field trips. The Stormwater Partnership is providing funding to cover the cost of transportation for local schools to participate in water resource related field trips.

Currently there are three locations available for these field trips, but more will be added in the future:

- ❖ Any Elkhart County Park
- ❖ The Elkhart Environmental Center
- ❖ The Wellfield Botanic Gardens in the City of Elkhart
- ❖ If you know of a field trip within Elkhart County that you think should be approved, let us know and we'll check if it qualifies.

Any teacher, administrator, or educator from an accredited K-12 school in Elkhart County is encouraged to apply. For more information please visit [bit.ly/SEFTI](http://bit.ly/SEFTI).



**ELKHART COUNTY**  
**SOIL & WATER**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### 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](mailto: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](http://www.goshenindiana.org)).

