

Stormwater

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation flows over the ground to a lake, stream, or river. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, and buildings prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Foreign substances, such as debris and chemicals, are dissolved in water at the surface and transported with stormwater into streams, rivers, and other water bodies, causing pollution.



The following are examples of potential sources of stormwater pollution in your community.

- Lawn chemicals can add fertilizers and herbicides to stormwater.
- Oil stains on your driveway can be washed into stormwater.
- Yard wastes
- Any chemicals left outdoors and exposed to stormwater have the potential to pollute it.

Once pollution reaches water bodies, it can poison fish, damage ecosystems, and even end up in water used for drinking or recreation. Protecting our water bodies from all sources of contamination can be accomplished through the cooperation of residents, government, and businesses.

For more Information on Pollution Prevention

Visit IDEM's Stormwater Webpage:

[IDEM: Stormwater Permitting: Home](https://www.IN.gov/idem/stormwater)

<https://www.IN.gov/idem/stormwater>

Help your kids learn about stormwater:

[Learning and Teaching about the Environment | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/students)

<https://www.epa.gov/students>

Learn more about stormwater and local events through the Hobart Stormwater webpage:

<https://www.cityofhobart.org/133/Stormwater>

For more information on local stormwater issues:

- Visit the City's Stormwater webpage.
- Visit the Hobart Sanitary & Stormwater District at 414 Main Street.

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Stormwater Pollution Prevention: Protecting Your Waterways



Hobart has been designated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, or IDEM, as a municipal separate storm sewer system, or MS4, and is required to comply with a state-issued stormwater permit. New Haven is implementing a program to prevent stormwater pollution and improve the water quality of local water bodies.

As part of this program, ordinances have been issued to protect stormwater. One ordinance is for prohibiting illicit connections to the storm sewer and illegal dumping. Only rain water should enter storm drains or surface waters.

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

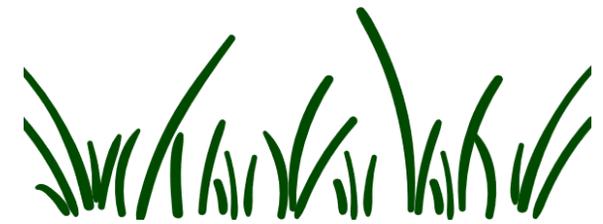
- Sweep up debris, rather than hosing down areas.
- Clean up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in a trash container or toilet. When left outdoors, pet waste contributes bacteria and nutrients to stormwater.
- Cover piles of soil and mulch being used for landscaping projects.
- Prevent debris from entering nearby storm drains when conducting outdoor home improvement or landscaping projects.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved surface to reduce the amount of dirty, soapy water entering storm drains and waterways.
- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit shows non-detectable levels of chlorine and bromine.
- If you have a septic system, have it serviced regularly. Make sure it is not connected to the storm sewer or polluting a creek or body of water.



- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, and other products. Don't dispose of hazardous products in storm drains, alleys, or on the ground. This pollutes the drinking water supply.
- Clean up your property. Properly dispose of outdated or unused household chemicals stored in your basement, garage, or barn and do not store these materials outdoors.
- Do not store open containers, pails, buckets or pans of oils and chemicals outdoors.
- Reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals that you use. Buy only what you need so that you don't have to dispose of leftovers. Read all the labels and follow directions.

For information on Household Hazardous Waste Disposal visit the Hobart Public Works website:

<https://www.cityofhobart.org/193/Household-Hazardous-Waste-HHW>



Yard Waste

Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard wastes that end up on City streets and sidewalks are a potential source of stormwater pollution that can make their way to storm drains, drainageways, and rivers.

- Yard waste can clog storm drains and cause drainage and flooding issues.
- Yard waste can add excessive nutrients to waterways, leading to harmful algae growth and fish kills.
- Blow grass clippings back into your yard. They are good for lawns and act as a natural fertilizer helping them grow, greener, thicker and healthier.
- Grass clippings on pavement can be slippery for motorcycles and bicycles.

See Pollution?

To report discharges of pollutants to the stormwater system, call the City at 219-942-3619.

