

Only Rain Down the Drain

What is a Sewer?

An artificial, usually underground, conduit or pipe used for carrying off sewage or rainwater. Sewers come in different shapes and sizes depending upon the amount of flow and the area of need.

Storm Sewers

Storm sewers DO NOT take storm water to a treatment plant. Once water runoff from rain, snow melt, car washing, and even hosing down the driveway, enters the storm drain it travels through the storm sewer to the end of the sewer pipe and discharges typically to an open body of water like a pond, river, creek or stream.

All of the pollutants that storm water picks up off the ground as it flows into a storm drain remain in the water and are discharged into the receiving water or structure, adding pollution with every runoff event.

10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Water Pollution

1. Sweep up driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them with water.
2. Never dump anything down a storm drain or into a ditch.
3. Plant bare spots in your yard.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Use fertilizers sparingly and avoid pesticides.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
7. Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check cars for leaks and recycle motor oil.
9. Pick up after your pet.
10. If you are on a septic system, have it inspected and pumped regularly.

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Keeping pollutants like fertilizers, pet waste, and litter out of storm water runoff and out of storm drains is very important because as you now know, it is not treated at a treatment plant and ends up in our recreation water and ultimately in Lake Michigan, our source of drinking water.

Use the motto "Only Rain Down The Drain" in your daily activities as a reminder to avoid polluting our lakes, streams, and rivers. Take an active role in keeping your water clean.

Sanitary Sewers

All of the wastewater (a.k.a. sewage) from your sinks, toilets, showers, washing machines, and dishwashers flows through pipes throughout your home and leaves your house through another pipe to the main sanitary sewer out in the street or alley near your house.

The waste water flows through the main sanitary sewer by gravity and by force from lift stations towards the wastewater treatment plant. The wastewater then gets processed at the treatment plant, and clear, cleaner water is discharged out to the Little Calumet River after meeting strict federal and state water quality standards.



Remember!
Clean water starts
with you!


Chesterton
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