



What can I do to prevent stormwater pollution?

When it rains, water flows directly into storm drains. Many people think that everything that flows into a storm drain gets treated, just like wastewater in a sewer system, but actually these two systems are NOT connected. Everything that flows into a storm drain goes untreated directly into our creeks, ditches and storm piping directly to the river. The Clean Water Act and Vincennes City Ordinance prohibits disposal of wastes and pollutants into stormwater conveyances.

Ultimately, stormwater pollution harms us all, from polluted recreation areas and wildlife, to the quality of our drinking water. You play an important role in stormwater pollution prevention and can do your part to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drainage system in the first place.

Grass clippings, leaves and other yard debris should never be raked or blown into the gutter, storm drains or ditches. Not only do they plug the drains up and cause flooding, but the debris can also carry pollutants that are harmful to the biosystem.

If you do blow grass into the street or drain, simply turn the mower around and blow the grass and debris back up into the yard to add natural fertilizer and a boost of nutrients. Or you can sweep them up and compost in your yard or dispose of them at the city collection site on Old Terre Haute Road. If you use a blower to clean up, do the same thing: blow the debris back up into the lawn area or pick up the pile when you are done instead of blowing out into the street.

Tips for fall leaf season:

Find out when your area is scheduled for leaf pickup (media outlets and www.vincennes.org), then rake your leaves out to the street no sooner than a week before and pile them on top of the curb in the grass strip between the sidewalk and curb. Then put them out into the street no sooner than a day before your pickup time. When you do pile them in the street, please leave at least 12"- 18" between the leaves and the curb to allow water to drain during a rain and keep them out of the sewer. Observing these simple tips can make a huge difference in how your storm sewer operates and help keep our waterways clean and healthy.

For more information on stormwater contact:

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A Clean Water Community

Vincennes Water Utilities

Water  Wastewater  Stormwater

For curbside leaf pickup information: Vincennes City Street and Sanitation Department 885-2520 or through www.vincennes.org

www.vinutilities.com