

## How Expensive are CSO Control Measures?

The costs of combined sewer overflow controls can vary. The severity, frequency and impact of the CSO events determines the cost of control.

The estimate of costs of limiting or removing CSOs in our communities is estimated to be well into millions of dollars. In New Haven, IN, the total cost is expected to be in excess of \$9.5 million.

Preventative maintenance, regular inspection and cleaning of sewer lines as well as capital improvements to increase sewer capacity will go a long way toward meeting state and federal CSO requirements.

**The fact is we pay for the consequences of CSOs and other river pollution one way or another. Either we fund the projects to clean up our discharges or we have to filter and treat it for our drinking water.**

**Most of our local communities draw their drinking water from the rivers.**

**If we don't control CSOs we will still pay higher utility rates, and still have impaired fishing and water recreation.**

**For information on CSO events, call 260/427-2297**

### *Who to Contact:*

#### **Allen County Partnership for Water Quality**

3718 New Vision Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
260/484-5848 ext. 111

[www.acwater.org](http://www.acwater.org)

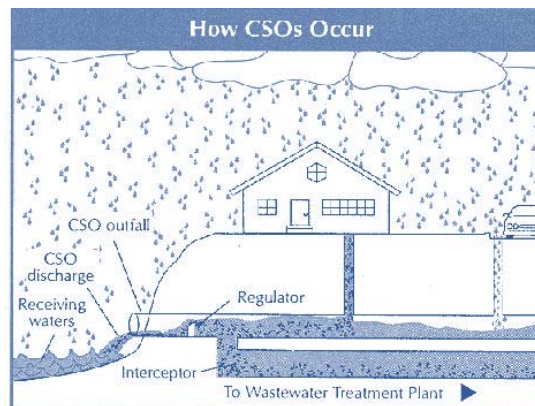


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## What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?

Over 100 communities throughout Indiana collect both stormwater runoff and sanitary wastewater in the same set of sewer pipes. These are called "Combined Sewer Systems" (CSS).

When it rains, combined sewers frequently lack enough capacity to carry all the stormwater and wastewater to the Water Pollution Control Plant. The lack of capacity at the plant causes the combined system to backup. Where these backups used to go into homes and businesses, the combined system diverted into our local rivers and streams. These events are known as Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).



The main pollutant in CSOs are untreated human waste, toxic materials like oil, pesticides and floating debris that plague our sewer systems. These pollutants can affect your health if you make contact with contaminated waters immediately following a CSO event.

If you eat fish from these waters you will want to read up on the catch advisories pertinent to the waters where you fish.

# Combined Sewer Overflow

## A Reference Guide for Residents



[www.acwater.org](http://www.acwater.org)

## How Are CSOs Controlled?

The Clean Water Act requires the U.S. E.P.A. and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to issue permits with requirements for controlling discharges from CSOs.

All communities with CSOs in use are responsible for implementing a series of minimum CSO controls, developing and implementing a long-term CSO Control plan (LTCP) to protect river water quality. The minimum CSO controls require communities to: (1) maximize the use of the sewer collection system and the existing capacity of the wastewater treatment system; (2) reduce the amount of pollutants entering the combined sewers; (3) control as much solid and floatable material as possible from the CSOs.

Our community utilities have each developed a long-term CSO control plan to identify, evaluate and implement various control strategies and achieve various water quality standards. Some of these controls include increased capacity for wet-weather sewer storage with the use of CSO ponds, partial sewer separation in cost-effective locations, tunnel storage, and increased treatment capacity at the Water Pollution Control Plant. The Plant increases will treat more combined sewage and provide mechanisms to treat flow at the point where it enters the river.

## What Can I Do?

**There are several ways you can affect the quantity and quality of water that flows off your property and into the sewer and storm drain systems:**

**Support Local Efforts**-Support the efforts of your local government to improve stormwater quality and quantity, and understand that there are a multitude of ways you can be involved in protecting your water quality.

**Don't be a Litter Bug**-Put trash in its place or it can end up in our rivers and streams.

**Reduce-Recycle-Reuse.**



**Reduce Impervious Surfaces**-Surfaces such as roofs, driveways and concrete patios do not allow rainwater to filter back into the soil, forcing the water into the stormdrains. Instead of concrete patios, asphalt driveways and paved paths, try wood decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways and mulched paths.

**Conserve Water**-Using less water on your lawn or garden means less chemical runoff into the stormdrains.

**Don't Misuse Stormdrains**-Remember the stormdrains are not trash cans. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) such as motor oil, anti-freeze and many cleaning agents should be disposed of properly at a HHW collection facility.



**Pick Up Pet Waste**-Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in your toilet or trash so it doesn't wash into stormdrains.

**Responsible Lawn Care**-When applying chemicals to your lawn, follow the manufacturer's directions to avoid over-applying; these chemicals can runoff into the sewer system and degrade our rivers and streams.



**WE ALL LIVE UP OR DOWNSTREAM FROM EACH OTHER**

## STORM DRAIN MARKING

**Does your neighborhood association, school, church or civic group want to be involved in preventing stormwater pollution?**

Become a part of your local storm drain Marking Program by affixing a special "No Dumping-Drains to River" emblem on storm drains.

Friends, neighbors and other residents will be aware that what flows down those drains is not treated before reaching the river.

**Volunteer for the Storm Drain Marking Program.**



The **ACPWQ** will refer you to the Storm Drain Marking Program coordinator in your area.



All materials and instruction necessary to mark these drains is included.

**Call today to become part of a program that will serve as an important reminder about stormwater pollution for years to come.**

**Remember,  
ONLY RAIN  
DOWN THE STORM DRAIN**