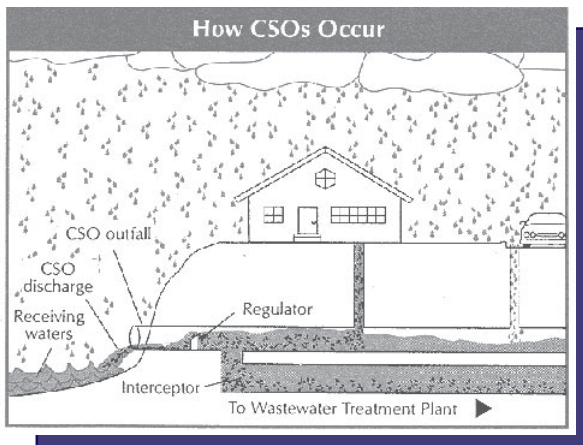


What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?

Fort Wayne, New Haven, and over 100 other communities throughout Indiana collect both rainwater runoff and sanitary wastewater in the same set of sewer pipes. These are called "combined sewers." Sometimes when it rains, combined sewers do not have enough capacity to carry all the rainwater and wastewater or the Water Pollution Control Plant cannot accept all of the combined flow. In this situation, the combined wastewater overflows from the collection system into the nearest body of water, creating a combined sewer overflow (CSO). The main pollutants in CSOs are untreated human wastes, toxic materials like oil and pesticides, and floating debris that may wash into the sewer system. These pollutants can affect your health if you swim in CSO-polluted water or if you eat fish that have been contaminated by the CSOs.



How Expensive Are CSO Control Measures?

The costs of combined sewer overflow controls may be high in some areas and low in others. The severity and frequency of the CSO occurrences and their effect on river water quality will determine the types of CSO controls and their cost. In Fort Wayne, the actual cost to control CSOs is not known, but is estimated to be \$250 million over the next 25 years. In New Haven, total cost is expected to be in excess of \$9.5 million. Preventative maintenance programs, including regular inspection and cleaning of sewer lines, and capital improvements underway to increase sewer capacity in many neighborhoods served by combined sewers will go a long way toward meeting state and federal CSO requirements.

Who To Contact

The Allen County Partnership for
Water Quality

3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Phone: 260-484-5848 ext. 111
Fax: 260-484-5080

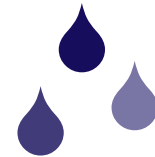
Combined Sewer Overflow Hotline

260-427-2297

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Allen County
Partnership for Water
Quality

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW



*A Reference Guide
for Homeowners*



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Allen County

How Are CSOs Controlled?

The Clean Water Act requires the U.S. EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to issue permits with requirements for controlling discharges from CSOs. The cities of Fort Wayne and New Haven are responsible for implementing a series of minimum CSO controls and developing and implementing a long-term CSO control plan 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 and (3) control as much solid and floatable material as possible from the CSOs. Fort Wayne and New Haven 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 sewer capacity for storage, increased capacity at the Water Pollution Control Plant to treat more combined sewage and mechanisms to treat flow at the point where it enters the river.

What Can I Do?

There are several ways you can affect the quality & quantity of water that flows into the sewer system:

◆ **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 stormdrains. Instead of concrete patios, asphalt driveways, and paved paths, try wood decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways, and mulched paths.

◆ **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.

◆ **Conserve Water** Using less water on your lawn and garden means less chemical runoff into the stormdrains. Using less water in your home means less water in the sewer system, making overflows during wet weather less likely.

◆ **Don't Misuse Stormdrains** Remember that stormdrains are not trash cans. Household hazardous waste (HHW) such as motor oil, antifreeze and many cleaning agents should be disposed of properly at a HHW collection facility.

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

◆ **Become Informed** Take interest in your community's water quality. Pay attention to signs posted at river access points informing residents of the risk of CSOs. Call the City of Fort Wayne's CSO and Water Quality Hotline to hear the latest information on CSOs and drinking water quality. Or call the ACPWQ for more information.

Storm Drain Marking

Does your neighborhood association, school or civic group want to be involved in cleaning up your community's stormwater? Become



part of the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality's Storm Drain Marking Program.

By affixing a special "No Dumping, Drains to River" emblem on storm

sewers, residents and passers by become aware that what flows down those drains is not treated before reaching the river. The ACPWQ will provide all materials and instruction necessary to mark these drains, so call today to become part of a program that will serve for many years as an important reminder to keep garbage, chemicals and hazardous waste out of the sewer system.

If you would like to be notified of a CSO event, sign up for the CSO Notification List. You will be notified via e-mail when a CSO event has occurred or is expected to occur. Please note that during a CSO event special caution should be taken to avoid contact with the listed affected waters.

To sign up for Fort Wayne's list, visit:

http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/cso_list.asp