

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

WATER MATTERS

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Combined Sewer Overflow- What Can You Do?

There are several ways you can affect the quality and 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. Or collect water that runs off your roof in rain barrels for use during dry spells.

◆ **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 at 427-2297 to hear the latest information on CSOs and drinking water quality. Or call the ACPWQ for more information at 426-4637 ext. 3

◆ **Mark Your Storm Drains** Become part of the ACPWQ'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 your drains!