

Household Hazardous Waste

Tox-Away Day

The Allen County Solid Waste Management District holds a yearly Tox-Away Day for residents of Allen County to properly dispose of their hazardous waste. The event takes place in early September and minimal fees may apply.

Bulbs, Batteries & Thermometers...Oh my!

Why wait for Tox-Away Day to rid your home of these items? Disposal sites are available year-round for:

Fluorescent bulbs: These bulbs should not be put out for your weekly trash pickup.

4 foot bulbs can be taken to the nearest Merchandise Pick-Up Area at **Sears** during normal business hours. Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) bulbs may be recycled at most major hardware store during normal business hours.

Batteries: Drop off old batteries at **Batteries Plus** for proper recycling.

Mercury Thermometers: Do not throw these away! Instead, dispose of them safely at the **Fort Wayne/Allen County Department of Health Immunization Clinic**, M-F 8am-4pm

Electronic Equipment: Recycle them properly so the metals contained do not contaminate our water and soil.

For a nominal fee, **OmniSource** will take your computers and electronic equipment. **A+ Computers** will recycle your computers and equipment for free (no monitors, please).



Contact us to:

Schedule a Presentation

Learn about our Education Programs

Join a Watershed Group

Make Small Changes at Home

Who to Contact:

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

260/484-5848 ext. 111

Allen County Solid Waste Management District

260/449-7878

Fort Wayne/Allen County Health

260/449-7561

River Clean-UP

Join the thousands of people who have participated in a river clean up!

For more information on how you can keep our rivers clean, contact us!

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

Follow and "like" us on **facebook**

The ACPWQ

Pollution

Prevention

Primer

A Quick Reference Guide for Residents



www.acwater.org

Pet Waste

Can I Compost It?

WE'VE ALL HEARD that manure makes great fertilizer. Waste from farm animals is often composted or spread directly onto fields but there are many differences between farm manure and pet waste.

In order to compost pet waste properly, the average temperature of the pile would have to be high enough to kill parasites and certain bacteria. The proximity of your compost heap to your neighbor and the nearest storm drain also make this less than ideal.

TIP: When you walk your pet, take along a glove, large bag and baggies. Put the glove on, turn half the baggie inside out, place it over the poop, pick up the poop with the baggie-closing it in the same motion.

Place the filled baggie in your large bag and dispose of it properly.

Pet Park Protocol

Many communities have pet parks for exercise and social time with your pet.

As you can imagine, where there are larger numbers of pets there will be a higher concentration of pet waste.

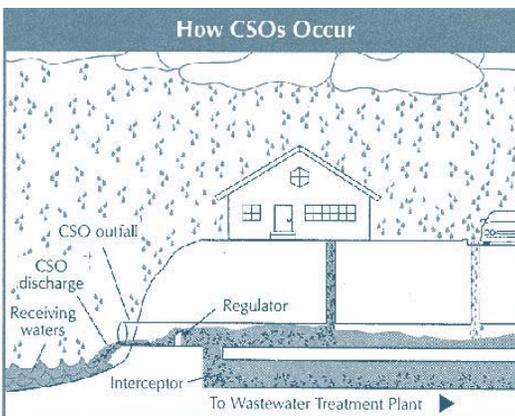
Most parks provide for on-site collection and disposal of this waste but a certain level of this remains un-policed on the ground.

Do what you can do. Pick up after pets and please dispose of all waste properly.

What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?

Over 100 communities throughout Indiana collect both stormwater runoff and sanitary wastewater in what are called "Combined Sewer Systems" (CSS).

When it rains, these are sometimes diverted to the rivers in events 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.

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.

Green Landscaping

Test Your Soil

Don't waste time and money!

Test you soil for nutrients and pH to determine what kind of care your lawn and garden need.

You can purchase a home test for soil pH, nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium at a garden center or contact a commercial testing service if you would like more detailed or special tests.

Remember the 4 "R's"

Right Source-The right type of fertilizer

Right Rate-The recommended coverage rate

Right Time-The period of time where the nutrients can be taken up without loss to wind or water

Right Place-The area only where the soil needs the type of applied nutrient

Choose Native Plants

Native plants are well-suited to their area, requiring less water, fertilizer and pesticides than other species. Their lower maintenance and high conservation value make them a good choice for your yard.

Ask your local garden center for some native plant choices.