

Goshen's Stormwater Ordinance

The City of Goshen's Illicit Discharge Ordinance (No. 4327) is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitats of our local surface and ground waters.

As rainwater passes over impervious surfaces, it picks up sediment and other particles, trash, nutrients, pathogens, and chemical pollutants that cause pollution.

Anything that enters a storm sewer system or that flows from your residence or business directly to a nearby stream or river is not treated. Although it seems like a small matter when considering one individual house or property, polluted stormwater runoff from all of our residential and business areas can collectively pose a great threat to our local waters.

There are many actions we can take to improve water quality by managing stormwater runoff in our community. Even if you don't live or work at the water's edge, reducing the amount of stormwater that leaves your property helps stormwater infiltrate into the ground benefitting the whole watershed.

If you see signs of concrete washout on the street or near a storm drain, please contact the Goshen Stormwater Dept. at 574-534-2201.

For more information...

For more information on the Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership and correct concrete washout procedures, please contact:

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Goshen, IN 46526
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GREATER ELKHART COUNTY
STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP

*Stormwater Best
Management Practices*

Concrete Washout



*You want to protect our
waterways and we want to
help you learn how.*



This brochure has been prepared to educate the public and contractors about preferred concrete washout practices in order to protect the water quality of our local rivers and streams.

If you or a contractor is pouring concrete on your property, please be sure to read this brochure so you are aware of the local rules and regulations.

Stormwater in your life...

Water that flows into the storm sewer does not get treated at the wastewater treatment plant. Instead it flows through a series of pipes and discharges, either directly or indirectly, into our local creeks, rivers, and their tributaries, as well as into retention ponds. To minimize the potential for water quality problems, we need to work together to clean up our stormwater at the source.

Only Rain in the Drain!



Environmental Impacts of Concrete Washwater



Concrete is made by mixing cement, water, and aggregate materials. After concrete is poured, the

chutes of concrete trucks, wheel-barrows, and hand tools must be washed off. Concrete washout or washwater is very caustic and corrosive, having a pH of near 12 (household bleach has a pH between 12-12.6). Concrete washwater also contains various metals as well as sand and sediment that can contaminate our local natural resources.

If this washwater is dumped on the ground (or into unsealed containers), it can directly or indirectly end up in our local waterways through surface runoff or storm drains. Once in these waterways, it can harm the wildlife that lives there.

Rainwater polluted with concrete washwater can also percolate through the soil and alter the soil's natural chemistry. This can inhibit plant growth and contaminate groundwater.

Washout Tips

- ◆ Never dispose of concrete washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches or streams.
- ◆ Use minimal water to wash out the chute, tools, wheel-barrows, and other equipment.
- ◆ Carry a 5-gallon bucket or other portable method of catching and containing washout.
- ◆ If a portable method is not available, a temporary washout area may be created using straw bales or a bermed area lined with a heavy duty plastic sheet.
- ◆ Secure bags of concrete after they are open.
- ◆ Excess concrete (not washout) can be placed in small piles where it can be disposed of as solid waste when dry.
- ◆ When you pour concrete, you are responsible for the clean up of all residue and leftover concrete.

When there is evidence of dumping concrete washwater down a storm drain, gutter, or street, it will be treated as an illegal discharge.