



Storm Drains are for Rain Only!



Did you know that anything that goes into a storm drain in the City of Portage has a direct impact on the environmental health of our waters? Keeping our waters clean begins by keeping the storm drains in our community clean.

Car Care

- When changing car fluids, use a drip pan to collect any spills. If a spill occurs, soak it up using an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sawdust and dispose of it properly.
- Wash your car on the lawn with a biodegradable soap using as little water as possible. Shut off the hose while washing your car and then rinse.
- Keep a trash bag in your car and use it. Do not throw cigarette butts or any other trash out the window!
- Keep up car maintenance to reduce leakage of oil, anti-freeze and other fluids.
- Buy batteries, anti-freeze and motor oil from stores that will recycle used products, or take these items to a local Household Hazardous Waste Round Up.

Gardening

- Be an environmentally aware consumer. Buy non-toxic products for your home and garden whenever possible.
- Conserve water and reduce the amount of runoff by not over watering your lawn.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to cleanup garden clippings, dirt and litter from sidewalks, patio and drive-ways.
- Compost yard trimmings and leaves. Do not sweep them into the streets and catch basins.
- Divert rainspouts and other sources of runoff onto lawns or vegetation.

For More Information

City of Portage

(219) 762-4204

Dog Owners

- Clean up after your dog every single time!
- Dispose of pet waste in trash cans. Leaving it on the lawn sends harmful bacteria into the storm drains whenever you water or when it rains.
- Carry extra cleanup bags with you when walking your dog so that you can make them available to others without them.

Paint

- Never dispose of paint or paint-related products in the gutter or storm drains. Take old paint or thinners to a Household Hazardous Waste Round Up.
- Buy only the paint you need. Use leftover paint for touch-ups.
- Clean water-based paint brushes in the sink.
- Oil-based paints should be cleaned with thinner that can be reused. Set the used thinner aside in a closed jar to settle-out paint particles.
- Store paint and paint-related products in rigid, durable and watertight containers with tightfitting covers.

Fertilizers & Pesticides

- Follow the label directions and application ratios.
- Do not over-fertilize and do not fertilize near ditches, gutters, or storm drains.
- When using pesticides, more is not better. Use pesticides sparingly, "spot" apply, rather than "blanket" apply.
- Do not apply either fertilizer or pesticides before a rain.
- Store pesticides and fertilizers in sealed containers and keep them in a covered area such as a garage or storage shed.
- Use non-toxic alternatives to pesticides whenever possible.