

# Storm H<sub>2</sub>O Solutions

A Quarterly Newsletter On Improving Water Quality in Clark County

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## Stormwater Pollution Prevention HOME REPAIR & REMODELING

*Paints, solvents, adhesives and other toxic substances used in home repair and remodeling often make their way into the storm drain system and do not get treated. This pollutes our drinking water and contaminates waterways, making them unsafe for people and wildlife. Follow these simple tips to prevent pollution and protect your health:*

Store bags of cement and plaster away from gutters and storm drains, and cover them to protect against rain, wind and runoff. Sweep or scoop up cement wash-out or concrete dust instead of hosing into driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.

Avoid cleaning brushes or rinsing paint containers in the street, gutter or near a storm drain. Clean water-based paints in the sink. Clean oil-based paints with thinner, which you can filter and reuse. Recycle leftover paint at a household hazardous waste collection facility, save it for touch ups or give it to someone who can use it, like a theatre group, school, city or community organization.

Keep construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains. Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather. Cover excavated material and stockpiles of soil, sand or gravel, protected from rain, wind and runoff. Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grass, which can shield and bind soil.

Household cleaners, paint and other home improvement products like wallpaper and tile adhesives are too toxic to trash. Recycle them instead, at a convenient household hazardous waste collection facility.



Paint stripping residue, chips and dust from marine paints and paints containing lead or tributyl tin are hazardous wastes. Sweep them up instead of hosing into the street and dispose of them safely at a household hazardous waste collection facility.

Avoid applying fertilizers or pesticide near curbs and driveways, and store covered, protected from rain, wind and runoff. Try using organic or non-toxic alternatives. Reduce runoff and lower your water bill by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems. Recycle leaves instead of blowing, sweeping or raking them into the street, gutter or storm drain.



## Save it on a rainy day

Conserving water makes good sense any time, but sensible sprinkling is especially important on rainy days or during wet weather. Why water your lawn when nature's doing it for you? You'll save money, your community will save water, and your landscape will never know the difference.

Even if you've got an automatic sprinkler system programmed to apply precise amounts of water at specific times each day, you can eliminate unnecessary watering by installing a rain sensor.

The sensor—or rain sensing switch—tells the system when the rain has provided sufficient water, turning it off during cycles when irrigation is not necessary.

Without a rain sensor, the irrigation system controller will continue to initiate watering cycles, no matter how drenched the landscape. The switch makes a sprinkling system fully automatic, saving water for a drier day—and reducing your water bill.

### A rain sensor should:

- **Override an automatically timed sprinkler system in the event of a specified amount of rainfall.**
- **Keep the system off during the rainfall and for a drying-out period after the rainfall.**
- **Reset the sprinkler system to the original schedule when the landscape requires more water.**

### Did you know...

The average lawn needs about an inch of water a week, including rainfall, or 10 to 20 minutes of watering. A half-inch per week is enough for fall and spring. Sprinklers should be on long enough to allow water to soak into the ground but not so long as to cause runoff.

### What crayon will a child need to color a lake in twenty years? Keep our lakes their natural color.



- *Use zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizer*
- *Don't over-fertilize*
- *Keep fertilizer away from storm drains*

These three steps will help prevent algae buildup and preserve our lakes for the future.

If you have questions or concerns about stormwater issues or stormwater quality in your neighborhood, there are contacts in each community to help you:

Jeffersonville—812-280-3818

Sellersburg—812-246-3821, ext. 6

Oak Park Conservancy District—812-283-3960

Clark County—812-285-6275



Clark County



Jeffersonville



Sellersburg



Oak Park



Clark SWCD

This newsletter is courtesy of your local Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) coordinator and the Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) office.