

DID YOU KNOW?

STORM SEWER WATER IS NOT TREATED

POURING ANY CHEMICALS IN THE STORM SEWER POLLUTES RIVERS AND LAKES

DISPOSING OF POLLUTANTS INTO A STORM SEWER IS ILLEGAL

ANY AMOUNT OF CONTAMINANT INTO OUR WATER IS CONSIDERED A SPILL

ONE LITRE OF MOTOR OIL CAN CONTAMINATE ONE MILLION LITRES OF WATER

THE DIFFERENCE IN SEWER SYSTEMS



SANITARY SEWER

This system collects sewage and wastewater from toilets and sinks in your home. This water goes to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and released back into the Thames River.



STORM SEWER

This system collects rainwater, melted snow, and surface water through storm grates that drain directly into the nearest creek, river or lake. This water is NOT treated.

REGULATIONS

As well, many towns and cities have their own enforceable Sewer Use By-Law that governs spills in their municipalities.

Call the municipality, town or city if you see someone pouring chemicals, oil, paint or any other suspicious material into a storm sewer catch basin, sanitary sewer or land drainage works (i.e. a ditch).



Contact information:
Stormwater Department
910-579-6297
www.sunsetbeachnc.gov

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

STORM SEWERS



WHY WATER SHOULD BE THE ONLY THING ENTERING OUR STORM SEWERS

ARE YOU POLLUTING OUR WATER?

Disposing of chemicals, paints, motor oil and other pollutants into storm sewer catch basins, sanitary sewers or on the ground can lead to contamination of our creeks, rivers and lakes. These rivers and lakes are our drinking water source and we must keep them clean.



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A SPILL?

Storm drain runoff is not treated. It is important that pollutants such as animal waste, automotive fluids, garbage and chemicals do not end up in our storm drains. If a hazardous liquid waste material is spilled into a storm drain it can cause destruction to our source water and well water. This will not only impact us but wild life and aquatic life as they depend on this water to live.



WHAT IS A SPILL?

A spill can be any size, big or small. A spill occurs anytime anything is dumped into a sewer drain that isn't water. These spills can be chemical, biological, or gaseous in nature.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- ✓ Sweep outdoor spills and dispose of in the trash (landfill) if not hazardous. If hazardous take to a waste depot
- ✓ For wet spills like oil, apply cat litter or another absorbent material, then sweep and bring to a household hazardous waste collection centre
- ✓ Dispose of unused pesticides, antifreeze and other hazardous chemical containers at your local hazardous waste facility
- ✓ When outside choose soaps, cleaners or detergents labeled non-toxic, phosphate-free or biodegradable
- ✓ Prevent spills with secondary containment, drip pans

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

