

Illegal Dumping

What should I do if I see a neighbor, or know someone who's throwing trash into a storm drain?

Storm drains are designed for catching rain water only. Dumping trash or other pollutants down storm drain inlets is illegal and is a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 as well as the City of Lodi's Stormwater Ordinance.

If a neighbor is disposing of trash in the storm drain, they may not understand that drain inlets directly connect to our creeks and rivers. If you have an amicable relationship with your neighbor, it may be just a matter of informing and making them aware of its environmental impact. If it is someone who you feel is knowingly violating and repeatedly dumping into storm drains, please call the City of Lodi 368-5735.



Dumping used oil into the storm drain system is illegal. One gallon of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water. All city residents can recycle up to two gallons of used, uncontaminated motor oil free by taking it to Central Valley Waste Services at 1333 E Turner Road.



City of Lodi

Municipal Service Center
1331 S. Ham Lane
Lodi, CA 95242
Phone: 209-333-6740
Fax: 209-333-6841
E-mail: stormwater@lodi.gov

*Only RAIN
Down the Drain*

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

**Frequently
Asked
Questions**



Frequently Asked Questions:

What is Stormwater Pollution?

Runoff from rainstorms is called stormwater. Stormwater becomes polluted by flowing over dirty surfaces, such as parking lots. Stormwater pollution also takes place when someone dumps materials, like oil or paint, directly into the storm drain. Polluted stormwater flows without treatment directly to creeks and rivers, where it can be harmful to aquatic life.

What are Catch Basins or Storm Drain Inlets?

Catch basins and storm drain inlets are curb-side receptacles whose sole function is to catch surface water runoff from rainfall and deliver it to the storm drain system, where it's eventually delivered to local creeks and rivers.

Are Sewers and Storm Drains the same thing?

No. Storm drains and sanitary sewers have two distinct functions. Storm drains are intended to collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Storm drain systems do not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers. These are typically the drains found in streets and in parking lots. Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines and floor drains and take it to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from

wastewater before it is discharged to the waterway.



Do Drain Inlets get Cleaned Out?

Yes. City crews maintain approximately 115 miles of storm drain pipelines citywide.

Why doesn't the City clean out all the storm drain inlets right before a storm?

There are too many for City crews to clean in a short period of time. Storm drain inlets are maintained on a year-round schedule.

Why doesn't the City install filters or screens in front of drain inlets?

It sounds like a good idea, but during a rainstorm, trash is quickly swept into drain inlets. Any screen or filtration device placed in front of the drain inlet would cause trash to accumulate and clog the grate, preventing proper drainage and potentially creating a flood hazard. City maintenance crews would be unable to keep up with cleaning these devices potentially

creating flooding hazardous. However, there are new technologies being developed in the form of filtration or screening devices to be installed and inserted inside catch basins. The Stormwater Program Engineering groups are always evaluating these new technologies for possible future use.

What types of pollutants are found in the storm drain system?

Heavy metals, paint thinner and paint products, motor oil, pesticides, fertilizers, human and animal feces, antifreeze, and dead animals are but a few examples of the pollutants typically found in the storm drain system. These pollutants can eventually find their way to our basin parks, the Mokelumne River and the Delta.

Learn More

Get additional stormwater information at the following websites:

www.lodi.gov/stormwater

www.cabmphandbooks.com

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Municipal Utility Services