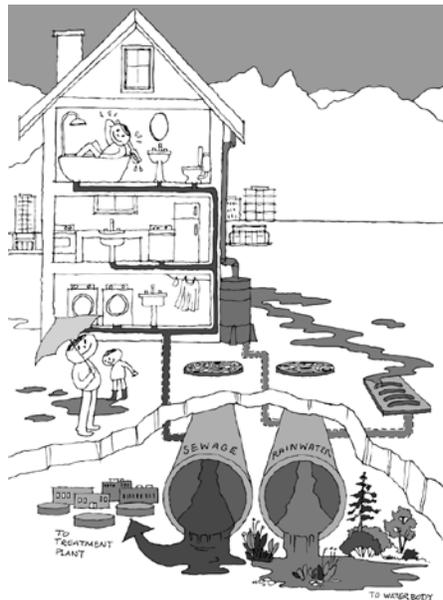




City of Green Bay
Department of Public Works
Engineering Department

The
Difference Between
Sanitary & Storm Sewers



Contact Information:
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100 North Jefferson Street, Room 300
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Phone 920-448-3100

FACT SHEET:

SANITARY AND STORM SEWERS

A sewer is a sewer, right? Anything poured down a drain goes to a wastewater treatment plant, right? **WRONG!** It's important to understand the difference between sanitary sewers and storm sewers so we can prevent unnecessary environmental damage and help the City comply with its wastewater permits.

The “**sanitary sewer**” is a system of underground pipes that carries sewage from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, and other plumbing components to the wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater from the City leaves through many discharge points that connect to the city sewer system and are monitored by the local sanitary sewer authority.

Grease is the Word...

- “Grease” commonly refers to the fats, oil and waxes found in wastewater.
- “Grease” in the Food Industry comes from butter, lard, vegetable fats and oils, meats, nuts and cereals.
- “Grease” or “FOG” (Fats, Oils and Grease) by any other name is still a nuisance.



Why is Grease a Problem?

- Fats are not easily decomposed by bacteria.
- Fats coat, congeal, and accumulate on pipes, pumps, and equipment and sometimes obstruct lines.

If you have a backup call the City of Green Bay Department of Public Works – Operations Division at (920) 448-3100 during normal business hours (8am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday). After hours, weekends and holidays call (920) 492-3735. The following information is intended as a reference to help protect you and your family from the hazards of raw sewage in your basement. If a sewer backup is not handled properly, health and safety problems can occur, as well as significant property loss.

To protect yourself and your family during cleanup, please follow these guidelines:

- If there is standing water or a rotten egg smell, do not enter your basement or remain near the overflow. Wait for it to flow down the floor drain if possible. Hydrogen sulfide gas can be present which is poisonous in high concentrations.
- Do not use any electrical equipment while standing in water.
- Wet-vacuum to remove spillage. Drain wet-vacuum and contaminated mop water into a sink or toilet and flush when the sewer is clear.
- Clean all water soaked surfaces, furnishings and contaminated items until properly cleaned and sanitized. Disinfect plumbing fixtures before resuming normal use.

- Wear protective clothing such as rubber boots, gloves and eye protection during cleanup and removal. Dispose of gloves in the trash. Do not flush rubber gloves as they can cause another backup.
- Ventilate the area with floor fans and dehumidifier to properly dry area.
- Do not use heat to dry closed building interiors; mildew and expanded water damage may result.
- **Do not mix ammonia with bleach, this produces a poisonous gas!**
- Do not drain sewer water into sump pump. This will send the untreated water directly to our local waterways.
- Do not attempt to stop the flow of sewer backup water through any drains. Any added obstruction could cause serious damage to your household drainage system.

The “**storm sewer**” is a system designed to carry rainfall runoff and other drainage but not sewage. The runoff is carried in underground pipes or open ditches and discharges (**untreated**) into streams or other surface water bodies. The inlets (catch basins) to this system may be found in curbs and low-lying outdoor areas.

Disposal of chemicals or hazardous substances via the storm sewer system is not only illegal but damages the environment. Pollutants that get into storm drains can poison fish, birds, and other wildlife, and can find their way into drinking water supplies. In addition, silt, litter, and organic matter (branches, clippings, etc.) can clog storm drains and cause flooding.

WHAT IS STORM WATER?

Storm water is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, roads and sidewalks. As the storm water runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and man-made pollutants. Eventually, the runoff deposits the pollutants into our waterways.



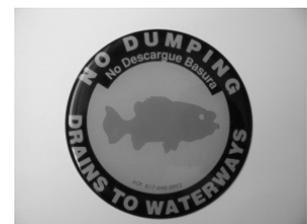
COMMON STORM WATER POLLUTANTS

- Motor Oil
- Antifreeze
- Pesticides
- Animal Waste
- Soaps & Detergents
- Yard Waste

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN OUR COMMUNITY

STORM INLET MARKING

The City of Green Bay Public Works Department is asking residents to participate in the “Storm Inlet Marking” program. This program involves labeling storm inlets with a marker educating residents not to dump pollutants into the inlet. The message, “**No Dumping, Drains to Waterways**” is a simple phrase to remind those passing by that the storm inlets connect to local waterways and that dumping will pollute those waters.



Storm Inlet Marker

ADOPT-A-STORM-INLET

The Public Works Department is asking residents to participate in "Adopt-A-Storm-Inlet". This program asks residents who have a street storm inlet in front of their house to make sure they are cleaned off and unobstructed. Residents will be asked to do three things:

- Remove debris from inlet
- Clear snow and ice from inlet
- Mark and adopt the inlet

DO YOU LIVE NEAR A POND?

Team up with neighbors to improve water quality – join the City of Green Bay's "Adopt-A-Pond" Program.

ADOPT-A-POND

The "Adopt-A-Pond" Program is being promoted and conducted as an entirely voluntary cooperative effort between residents, community groups, business owners, etc. and the City of Green Bay. With guidance from City staff, your group will have opportunities to promote better water quality in their backyard/neighborhood pond or wetland.



ADOPT-A-CREEK

Adopt-A-Creek Program empowers community members to help protect local creeks and the overall health of the watershed that is needed to understand the impact of storm water and the pollutants it carries into our waterways. Twice a year (April and October) volunteers visit their adopted sites and collect debris that has accumulated in the waterways. City crews will dispose of the material collected. Become an "Adopt-A-Creek partner by committing to maintain a segment of a Green Bay creek.



PROTECT OUR GREENWAYS

A Greenway also known as Parkway, Conservancy or Environmental Sensitive Area, is an area of natural vegetation next to a waterway managed and protected for the benefit of the Community and Environment. Greenways are very beneficial to the reduction of storm water runoff, flood reduction, water quality protection, and preservation of biological diversity.

ADJACENT RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT BE...

- Mowing into the greenway for more lawn space.
- Creating private vegetable or flower gardens in the greenway.
- Disposing of lawn and garden waste in the greenway.
- Constructing patios, fire pits, footbridges and stairs in the greenway or storing trailers, equipment and other materials in the greenway.
- Cutting down healthy trees and brush in the greenway.



ADOPT-A-DITCH

The "Adopt-A-Ditch" Program is being promoted and conducted as an entirely voluntary cooperative effort between residents, community groups, business owners, etc. and the City of Green Bay. With guidance from City staff, you will have the opportunities to help minimize flooding, erosion and storm water runoff to our local waterways. The City of Green Bay's waters – its bay, rivers, creeks and wetlands – are among our greatest resources. However, these waters are vulnerable to pollution from many human activities.

