



Photo: MPCA



Photos: Clean Water MN



Photo by a watershed resident.

## Only Rain Down the Drain

Each of us plays a part in protecting our local lakes, streams, and wetlands. When we work together to be good neighbors and water stewards, we can ensure local waters are healthy for generations to come.



### Where do storm drains flow?

**Our storm drains send water straight to local lakes, streams, and wetlands.** Whatever passes through them has a direct impact on the health of our local waters and our community.



### What can go down a storm drain?

**Only rainwater and snowmelt!** In fact, it is illegal to send anything that is not water down a storm drain. That means oil, paint, grease, pool water, grass clippings, yard debris, water softener salt, and trash may not be put down the storm drain.

**This prohibited dumping is called an “illicit discharge,” and it can result in a fine.**



### How can I get involved?

**If you see something, say something.** If you spot an illicit discharge, contact your City or Township to anonymously report it. More info on reverse.

**Spread the word - and the clean water actions.** Things like blowing grass clippings back into your yard, picking up trash, and throwing away pet waste seem small, but they add up! You can lead by example in your community.

You can adopt a storm drain near you! Visit **adopt-a-drain.org** to claim your storm drain and keep it free from debris. With just fifteen minutes a couple of times a month, you can make a tangible impact on the health of local waters. Join the movement today!

**ADOPT A STORM DRAIN**



*Working to protect and improve water and natural resources in the watershed.*

Visit our website for more information on ways you can protect our local waters.

- [vlawmo.org](http://vlawmo.org)
- [info@vlawmo.org](mailto:info@vlawmo.org)
- 651-204-6070

# Responsible Disposal

Contact your county's waste department if you have specific questions or want to learn more. The Ramsey County A to Z Green Guide (see QR code) offers a searchable library of disposal options.



Substance	Disposal
Pet waste	Trash or sanitary sewer (i.e. toilet)
Grass clippings, leaves, yard debris	Yard waste collection site or hauler service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oil, grease, automotive liquids</li><li>• Paint &amp; paint thinners</li><li>• Cleaning chemicals</li><li>• Needles &amp; syringes</li><li>• Pool/hot tub chemicals and filters</li></ul>	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection
Pool or hot tub water	Stop chlorination one week prior to discharge, then send down sanitary sewer or across upland surfaces like lawn.
Medications	Medicine collection sites such as police departments - contact your county for details
Mop bucket; carpet cleaning water	Sanitary sewer with filtered debris in trash
Water softener salt	Small amounts can go in the trash, check with your county for large amounts

## Reporting an Illicit Discharge

*It takes all of us to keep water clean and safe. Note that reports can be made anonymously.*

- 1. Document it.** If you see something unusual (i.e. grass clippings, paint, auto fluids, construction site materials, cleaning substances, etc.) near a ditch, pond, or sewer, take a photo or write down your observations.
- 2. Be specific whenever possible.** If you can, make note of the street and cross street, the direction you're facing or any identifying factors. Note date and time.
- 3. Call your municipality's engineering or public works department to report what you have seen.** Even if you're unsure if what you've seen is illegal or harmful, calling will allow staff to further investigate, and they can pursue any remediation or cleanup as needed.