

## Report Water Pollution

Below are a few contacts that can handle, or direct, your water pollution concerns. Additionally, you can contact your municipal public service department or township office to notify them of concerns or needs.

If you see someone putting anything down a storm drain or directly into any body of water or ditch, obtain a license plate number or address and report it to:

**It's a Crime:**

phone: (614) 871-5322

online: [www.itsacrime.org](http://www.itsacrime.org)

Report the release of any material that impacts public health or the environment, including **chemicals** and **petroleum products** to:

**Ohio EPA** 24-hour hotline: (800) 282-9378.

Report **sewage-related** pollution to:

**Franklin County Public Health**

24-hour hotline: (614) 525-3965

e-mail: [failingHSTS@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:failingHSTS@franklincountyohio.gov)

online: [www.fcbhforms.org/view.php?id=31](http://www.fcbhforms.org/view.php?id=31)

For other non-emergency pollution you can contact:

**Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District**

and we will inform the proper agency.

phone: (614) 486-9613

online: [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org)

For a complete list of resources visit our new website

**BetheChange**  
for clean water .org

## Become a Water Quality Partner

As a Water Quality Partner, your business will educate your employees about stormwater issues and pledge to reach for the goal of preventing stormwater pollution.

Businesses in the Water Quality Partner program sign a voluntary pledge in which they have chosen among stormwater pollution prevention BMPs.

In appreciation of your partnership with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, you will receive a Water Quality Partner window cling, public recognition on the Franklin Soil and Water web site, and access to information and continuing education on stormwater issues for your business.



Water Quality Window Cling

Contact Franklin Soil and Water to find out how your business can become a Water Quality Partner or visit [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org) for more information.

## Why You Should Care

Small business owners and managers are often closely involved in their communities. One way to be a good neighbor is to be a good steward of natural resources, including local streams and rivers.

This also makes business sense as local governments have regulations to protect water quality that could result in legal action against a violator. The Water Quality Partner program is a stormwater-specific pledge that is designed to share information on best practices for businesses.

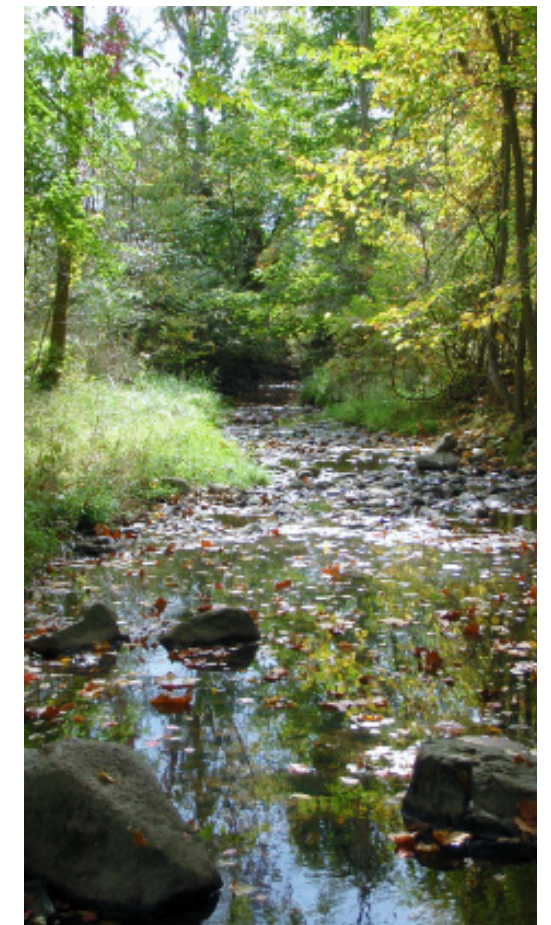
Only stormwater (rain and snowmelt) should be allowed to enter a storm drain, on or off site. You are responsible for any dirt or contaminants stormwater picks up on your property. For instance, runoff from cleaning should not enter the stormwater system. Roadside ditches are considered part of the stormwater system.

This brochure is intended as an introduction to preventing stormwater pollution, not a complete listing of regulations. Regulations vary among local governments. For more information, contact the City of Gahanna at (614) 342-4005.



# Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Small Businesses

## An introduction to protecting local streams



## What You Can Do...

### ... About Cleaning

**Water from outdoor cleaning** of items such as kitchen mats, grease traps, trash cans, paint brushes, cars, etc. must not enter a storm drain. It should be contained or directed to a sanitary sewer, possibly with pre-treatment.

**Use a broom instead of a hose** to clean sidewalks and parking lots. Use absorbents to soak up spills.

**Create a spill plan**, post it somewhere visible and communicate it to your employees. Have spill absorbing products stored ready to use in a marked location.

### ... About Cars

**Contain all leaking fluids** from cars and store separately in labeled containers to send to a recycling facility.

**Work done outside** must be on a hard surface (not soil or gravel) with a drain to pre-treatment and a sanitary sewer system or another containment and collection system.



Pads used to absorb cooking oil that entered a stream from improper filter cleaning

### ... About Landscaping

**Blow leaves or lawn** clippings from sidewalks and roads back onto the lawn or bag them for recycling.

**Cover areas of bare soil** with gravel, mulch or plants to keep soil from being washed into storm drains. Soil is the biggest pollutant in Ohio's streams.

**Consider using a rain garden** to control some of your property's rain water runoff.

### ...About Dumpsters

**Keep your dumpster closed** and ask your hauler to exchange it, if it has a damaged lid or is leaking.

**Never put liquid waste** in dumpsters. Check that the drainage hole has a plug in place.

**Know what qualifies as hazardous waste** and make arrangements for its proper disposal. Ohio EPA's Division of Hazardous Waste Management can be reached at (614) 644-2934.



Stream full of suds from stormwater system

### ...About Storage

**Anything that is stored outside** must be properly covered, even if it is "natural" like sand or gravel piles, or in bags like cement. A waterproof awning or tarp may be all you need.

**Keep cans, drums and bottles** tightly closed and check regularly for leaks.

**Liquids should be stored** on an impervious surface with a berm for secondary containment.

### ...About Off-Site Jobs

**Carpet cleaning water** may not be directed to ditches, streets or storm drains.

**Latex painting tools** should be washed only in sinks. Solvents are hazardous waste and may not be rinsed down either storm drains or sanitary sewers.

**Power washing water** must be contained and disposed of either to a sanitary sewer, possibly after pre-treatment, or as hazardous waste. Before hiring a contractor, know what he or she does with wastewater.



Improper outdoor storage—no secondary containment

## In a FOG?



### Did you Know?

Cooking oil and animal fats that spill into stormwater drains cause the same negative environmental effects in our local waterways as leaked or spilled petroleum oil.

### Quick tips

- Know your grease trap's capacity, and figure out how often you should be cleaning it to avoid overflow. Once the trap reaches capacity it sends excess grease down the drain.
- Keep exhaust hoods, fans, filters and grease collection systems clean. When not properly cleaned hoods will leak grease onto the roof, and eventually down the walls of the building and into stormwater drains.
- Perform regular visual inspections of your grease dumpster to be sure it closes completely and that there are no leaks.

### Questions?

Contact the **City of Gahanna** at 614-342-4005 or **Franklin County Public Health** 614-525-3160  
[fcph@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:fcph@franklincountyohio.gov)

