

Report A Polluter

*To report dumping or
storm drain pollution,
please call:*

*City of Columbus
812-376-2540*

*Bartholomew County
812-379-1660*

*Evenings and
Weekends
911*

Other ways to keep our water clean:

Fertilize lightly with phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.

Mow high and let it lie. Keep leaves and grass clippings in your yard and out of the street.

Use a car wash instead of your driveway to keep dirt, oil and soap out of the storm drain.

Always pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in the trash.

Fix your car's leaks and use care when fueling to avoid spills.

Take paints, solvents, cleaners and other chemicals to a hazardous waste facility.

Participate in neighborhood clean up activities.



What do I watch for?

City of Columbus & Bartholomew County rely on citizens to report illegal dumping so that it can be cleaned up and water quality can be protected. Here are some clues that might help you identify illegal dumping:

Illegal dumping often happens late at night and before dawn.

Businesses that illegally put chemicals down a storm drain may do so in remote areas.

Commercial vehicles that dump liquids into storm sewers may not have a business name on the vehicle or they may not have a license plate.

When you call to report illegal dumping, it is helpful to have the following information:

- Location of the dumping
- Time the incident was observed
- Description of what was being dumped
- Vehicle description if a vehicle was involved
- License plate information

Illegal Dumping



Illegal dumping is the disposal of waste in an area where it is not permitted. This could be along a back property line, along a stream bank, in a woods or in some other off-road area.



Another form of illegal dumping is putting debris or pouring anything other than stormwater into a storm sewer inlet.



Why should I be concerned?

Debris or waste dumped down a storm sewer inlet can cause water pollution. Storm sewers empty directly into lakes, streams and rivers, so everything that goes into a storm drain will end up in a water body without any sort of water quality treatment. Stormwater runoff from sites where debris is dumped can carry pollutants into the storm sewer system.

Most Littered Item

It is estimated that several trillion cigarette butts are littered worldwide every year. That's billions of cigarettes flicked, one at a time, on our sidewalks, beaches, nature trails, gardens, and other public places every single day.



In fact, cigarettes are the most littered item in America and the world.

Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate tow, NOT COTTON, and they can take decades to degrade.

Not only does cigarette litter ruin even the most picturesque setting, but the toxic residue in cigarette filters is damaging to the environment, and littered butts cause numerous fires every year, some of them fatal.