

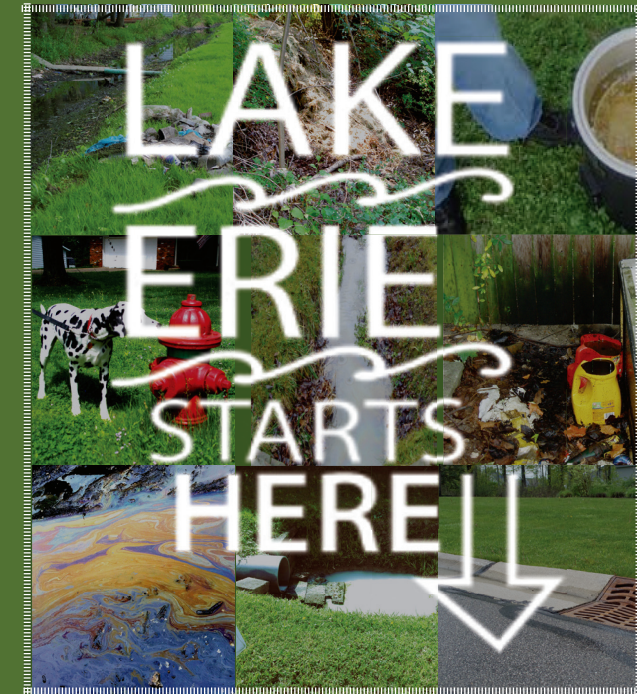
Stormwater and Pollution



All rain and snow melt flows off our roofs, lawns, and driveways, into the street and storm sewers, and directly to our rivers and lakes, untreated.

The stormwater collects pollutants and chemicals along the way, which can render it harmful to public health, to animal or aquatic life, and for domestic uses. Often times, pollutants are directly dumped or discharged to the storm sewer system from households or businesses. This deliberate dumping is called an illicit discharge, which is defined as any discharge not entirely composed of stormwater.

Please be sure to properly dispose of all your household waste and unused chemicals to protect Lake Erie. Use more environmentally friendly products around your house and yard to help keep toxic chemicals out of Lake Erie. There are many less-toxic alternatives that are not only better for our health and Lake Erie, but easier on your wallet, too.



Household Waste Disposal and Green Cleaning

Lake County Stormwater Management Department

440.350.5900

www.lakecountyohio.gov/smd



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Yard Waste



Mow High and Let it Lie! Keep your lawn between three and four inches tall. This will keep the soil cool and reduce water loss for a denser lawn

with deeper roots that discourages weeds. Use a mulching mower and leave your grass clippings on the lawn. They make a great natural fertilizer. Also use a mulching mower in the fall to mulch your leaves. It may take a few passes with the mower, but will leave behind a natural fertilizer.

If you must collect your grass clippings and leaves, ensure they are properly disposed of. Never dump the waste at a storm sewer, stream, or roadside ditch. Call your municipality or waste hauler to see if they perform curbside collection.



Composting yard waste is a great way to make your own natural fertilizer. Layer leaves as mulch in your flower or garden beds over winter. This will minimize erosion, prevent weeds, and provide nutrients to the soil during the growing season. Or start a compost pile and add other household waste like shredded paper, coffee grounds, eggshells, fruit skins and cores, and vegetable peelings. Contact the Stormwater Management Department for more information on how to compost.

Fertilizer



If you plan to fertilize your yard, get your soil tested first to see if its even needed. If you must fertilize, try organic products or practice the 4 R's:

1. Right Fertilizer- test your soil to see what nutrients are lacking and buy the appropriate fertilizer.
2. Right Rate/Amount- follow the instructions on the label and only apply the necessary amount.
3. Right Time- apply in the fall; do not apply before a rain event.
4. Right Place- remove excess fertilizer from the sidewalk, driveway, and road.

Pesticides

Pesticides are not only harmful to human health, but also to water quality. Take an organic approach to pests and try Integrated Pest Management (IPM). You can naturally control pests without chemicals:

- Rotate crops, rearrange plants, and use a variety
- Physically remove pests, use traps and netting
- Hand remove weeds and debris
- Keep plants healthy so they are less susceptible
- Use flowering plants to attract beneficial birds and insects
- Attract insect-eating critters, support pest predators
- Add companion plants and use sacrifice crops



Oil and Chemicals

Did you know that one quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water? Oil, gas or chemicals should never be disposed of into a storm sewer or onto the ground.



If you have used oil or antifreeze, contact your local auto parts store. Many will take these waste products for proper disposal.

All used oil, antifreeze and chemicals can be safely disposed of at the household hazardous waste collection days at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Disposal is free to Lake County Residents.



Pet Waste

Pet waste contains millions of bacteria and parasites like giardia, hookworm, and roundworm. It also contains nutrients, which feed the algal booms in Lake Erie. Pick up all pet waste and dispose of it in the trash or flush it down the toilet.

Paint



Any oil-based paint must be disposed of as a hazardous waste. It can not be thrown in the trash. Save any oil-based paints for the household hazardous waste collection days.

Latex-based is not hazardous. Add a drying agent to the leftover paint, let dry, and dispose of in the trash.



Cleaning Products

Many cleaning products have ingredients that are very hazardous. Try "green cleaning" alternatives. Contact the Stormwater Management Department for a list of home-made environmentally friendly cleaner recipes.



If you have leftover cleaning products, take them to the household hazardous waste collection for proper disposal.