Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the land. Hard surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

### What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants from surfaces. It carries them into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. The excess runoff from impervious areas can also contribute to flooding problems.

With over 750,000 people living in Northwest Indiana, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains. Remember, only rain in the drain!

### Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Household hazardous wastes, like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. The Lake Michigan District holds regular waste collections throughout Northwestern Indiana. To find out their schedule simply call your local district.

- In Lake County call: 1-800-946-4449
- In Porter County call: 1-219-465-3694
- In LaPorte County call: 1-219-326-1425

Go to learn more at: [www.nirpc.org/environment/water](http://www.nirpc.org/environment/water)

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**Stop stormwater pollution.**

**Be part of the solution.**

**Who should I contact if I have hazardous waste?**

**Brought to you by the Northwest Indiana MS4 Community Partnership**

For More Information Contact:
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
(219) 763-6060  www.nirpc.org

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**4 Simple Steps to Clean Water**

1. Use Chemicals With Care
2. Use Water Where it Lands
3. Use the Can, Not the Land
4. Use Water Wisely