

## Storm Drain FAQs

### What are storm drains?

Storm Drains are metal grate inlets that can be seen along road curbs, in parking lots, and outside buildings around our community. Storm drains collect rain water that is carried away through a network of underground pipes. In most places the stormwater is carried straight to local streams and rivers—water bodies often used for drinking water by downstream communities you may visit!



### What are storm drain markers?

Storm Drain Markers are aluminum disks installed near storm drains to remind citizens not to dump anything in the storm drains, because they drain to local waterways. In Lycoming County, 600 storm drain markers were purchased with grant funds and installed next to storm drains in high-traffic areas of Williamsport and neighboring communities. Look for them, and tell your friends and family why they are important.

### Do people really dump in storm drains?

Sadly, yes. These incidents are costly for our municipalities to clean up. They cause pollution and long-term damage to stormwater infrastructure.

## What Can I Do?

There are many things that **YOU CAN DO** as a citizen, homeowner, or business owner to keep stormwater and our streams cleaner:

- Don't dump ANY waste into storm drains! **IT IS ILLEGAL.**
- Regularly remove yard debris and trash clogging your storm drain inlets.
- Pick up pet waste and discard it appropriately.
- Use less fertilizer on your lawn—get a soil test to determine what kind of fertilizer and how much you really need.
- Keep fertilizer off sidewalks and driveways.
- Clean up automotive fluid spills promptly and fix leaking autos.
- Recycle used oil (many auto service centers will accept oil).
- Dispose of household chemicals responsibly by following the directions on the package or checking with local authorities.
- Sweep grass clippings and yard waste off of driveways and sidewalks.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash, or on an unpaved surface like your lawn, which acts as a sponge and filter.
- Do not drain swimming pools into the street or a storm drain. Do not drain them into the sanitary sewer system without permission from your local wastewater authority. First, let the pool sit for 2 weeks without treating so chlorine dissipates into the atmosphere. If draining into a yard, release the water very slowly so that it filters into the ground and doesn't run off into a stream or into the street.
- Absorb more stormwater naturally on your property by planting rain gardens, installing rain barrels, and reducing impervious (paved) surfaces. For more information on trying these "green infrastructure" techniques, contact the Lycoming County Master Gardeners at 570-433-3040 or Lycoming County Conservation District at 570-433-3003.
- Teach children these habits to promote a lifetime of good environmental stewardship!



Even where you don't see a storm drain marker, the **NO DUMPING** rule still applies.



Photo courtesy of Slate Run Tackle Shop

**Keep our aquatic home clean!**  
Call to report dumping in storm drains, spills, and other environmental incidents.

Who to Call	Phone
<b>First call:</b> Your local municipality (city, borough, or township office) North Central PA DEP Office <b>Emergencies Only!</b> You may remain anonymous if requested. Lycoming County 911 Center <b>Emergencies Only!</b>	Check local listings; office hours vary 570-327-3636 24 hours 911 24 hours