

Storm Sewer vs. Sanitary Sewer

Ajax has two drainage systems-sanitary and storm. Sanitary sewers transport wastewater from a building to a sewage treatment plant before discharging into Lake Ontario. In older areas of Town, storm sewers or storm drainage systems are designed to drain rainwater and melted snow off streets into creeks or Lake Ontario.

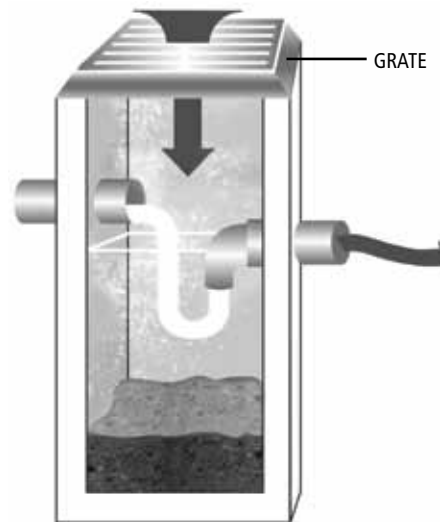


Why You Should Care

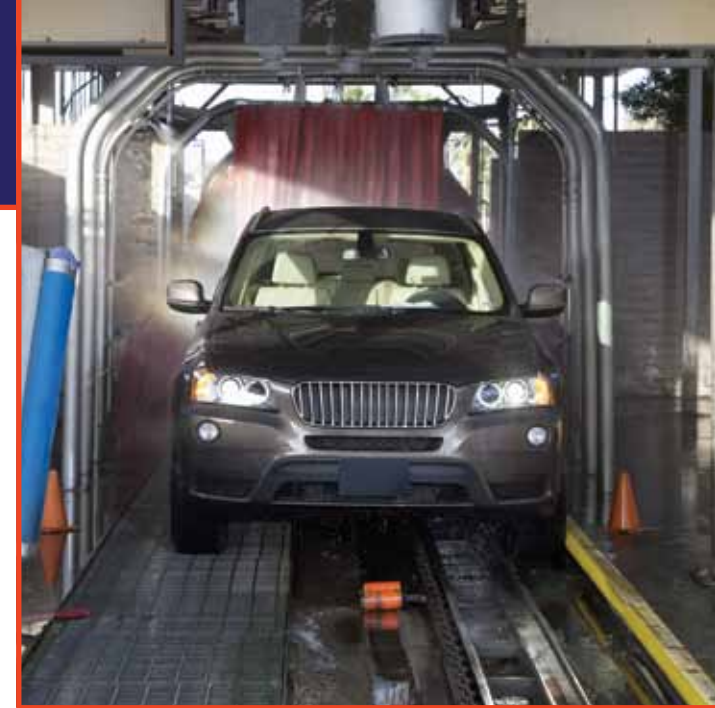
Water that travels through storm drainage systems is not treated or cleaned, therefore oils, detergents, food waste, degreasers and other hazardous materials that enter storm drainage systems flow directly into Lake Ontario. This type of pollution is a big contributor toward water pollution. Poor habits and careless approaches to handling and storage on industrial and commercial sites leads to spills and/or uncontrolled releases of harmful pollutants.

How You Can Help Reduce Stormwater Pollution

- Chemicals, oil, dirt or dirty water should **not be dumped or poured** into stormwater drains, ditches, streams or ponds.
- **Cover all garbage containers** and refrain from placing garbage containers near stormwater drains.
- **Never clean garbage/waste containers by washing or hosing them down** and directing washwater into the storm drains.
- **Keep outdoor storage areas covered** to prevent stormwater from coming into contact with pollutants.
- Keep your lot and/or **outdoor areas clean and free of litter and pollutants.**
- Ensure that all **employees are aware of how to properly dispose of chemicals and manage spills.**
- Provide **training for all employees** about proper handling and storage of materials and make them aware of their responsibility to prevent stormwater pollution.



A catchbasin helps keep debris and sediments out of the storm drain, but needs to be cleaned periodically.



- **Ensure all vehicles and machinery are washed in an area where soapy water cannot get into the stormwater drain.** This could be a grassed area or a wash bay.
- **Manage and contain spills with absorbent materials** such as, granular absorbent, absorbent pads, booms, sawdust, sand or rags.
- Ensure that loading areas are covered and have **sufficient secondary containment to collect leaks and spills** that may occur during loading/unloading.
- **Make an effort to prevent spills.** Use a funnel to prevent spillover and use a spill pan or bucket to collect spillover.
- **Inspect** parking lots and access roads and **regularly clean up spills and debris.**
- A common stormwater pollution problem is the **hosing down of outdoor areas.** This activity flushes pollutants into the storm drain system. Outdoor areas should be manually or mechanically swept and the material should be properly disposed of.