

Lake Erie: DON'T WASTE IT!

Crimes Against the Creek

Dumping anything other than water down the storm drain or in the creek isn't just a bad idea - *it's illegal.*

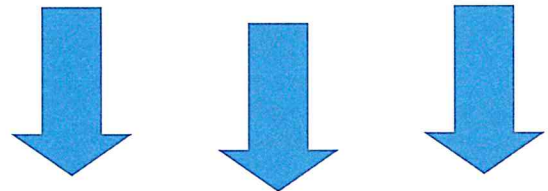
In areas with separate sewers, storm drains and storm sewers flow directly to local creeks and Lake Erie. In older areas with combined sewers, storm sewers often flow directly to wastewater treatment plants, where pollutants can upset the water treatment process.

Many common household and automotive wastes are highly toxic in the aquatic ecosystem, killing fish and amphibians while drastically altering water chemistry.

Just one quart of motor oil will pollute 2 million gallons of freshwater.

An April 2012 fish kill that affected 3 miles of the East Branch of the Rocky River in Cuyahoga County, killing over 31,000 fish, was caused by the illegal dumping of a metal plating chemical down a storm drain that flows to the river.

Substances commonly dumped illegally in storm drains and creeks include paint, automotive fluids, concrete washout, lawn chemicals and cooking oils. If you witness illegal dumping, please report it!



**Report Illegal Dumping to
Your Community's Service
Department or City Hall**