

Proper Disposal

For Proper Disposal,
Place these items in Trash/Refuse:

- **Cooking grease, butter, margarine, etc.**
 (absorb in paper towels or other absorbent material first)
- **Synthetic wipes - disposable diapers**
- **Feminine hygiene products, clothing items, rags, medications, etc.**
- **Plastic items such as straws, bags, etc.**

*For more information, contact:
 City of Grand Rapids Streets and Sanitation Department: 456-3232.*

For Proper Disposal, **Recycle or dispose of these items thru Kent or Ottawa County Hazardous Waste:**

- **Broken thermometer waste**
- **Motor oil, antifreeze, and other automotive fluids**
- **Gasoline, kerosene, flammables, solvents, etc.**
- **Strong acids, oil based paints and other hazardous waste**
- **Herbicides, pesticides, etc.**

For more information, contact:

Kent County Hazardous Waste
 616-336-2501 or
Ottawa County Hazardous Waste
 616-393-5638

Stormwater Sewers

Little is thought about stormwater, "Where it goes? Why it can be a problem? Whose responsibility it is when it does become a problem?" Most people don't realize that the storm drains on our streets empty directly into the "Waters of the State of Michigan" which are local lakes and rivers like the Grand River. Some incorrectly think that it goes to the wastewater treatment plant to be treated prior to going into the river.

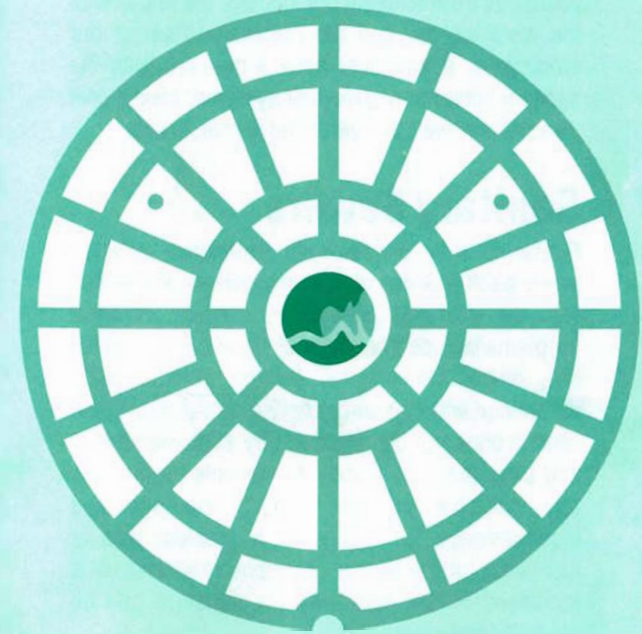
Since the 1970's, the construction industry has become aware of the fact that runoff from construction sites causes over 60% of the pollution that is discharged into the water bodies of the State. Today a partnership is developing with the construction industry and local governments to implement better means for preventing soil from washing from the construction site. Stricter stormwater management standards require the construction industry to prevent soil from washing into our catch basins and polluting our rivers and lakes.

Homeowners in our community can also help protect our waterways by becoming aware that outdoor drains and catch basins usually discharge directly into our nearby rivers and lakes. Though it may be handy and quick to dispose of used oil or grass clippings/leaves down that storm drain where it is "out of sight", the result is you are sending these pollutants right to our rivers and lakes, ruining their recreational value and destroying wildlife habitat. Citizens can help protect our environment by reporting those incidents when you may witness someone dumping something into our drains. You may report those incidents by calling 456-4100.



Environmental Services Department456-3625
Sewer Maintenance456-3246
Stormwater/Soil Erosion456-4100

Sanitary and Stormwater Sewers



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
Environmental Services Department456-3625
Sewer Maintenance456-3246
Stormwater/Soil Erosion456-4100



Environmental Services Department

We're doing our job right if you **never** notice us. We never close – we are open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Each of those days we move approximately 50 million gallons through the sanitary sewer system, treating it at our wastewater treatment plant to meet national water quality standards. All told, we maintain almost 1,000 miles of sanitary sewer lines and 450 miles of stormwater lines. We also work with local industries to prevent pollutants from entering our system. We're proud of the work we do, and the professionalism of our employees. If you ever have a concern with the sanitary sewer or stormwater systems, please give us a call, and we'll do everything we can to help.

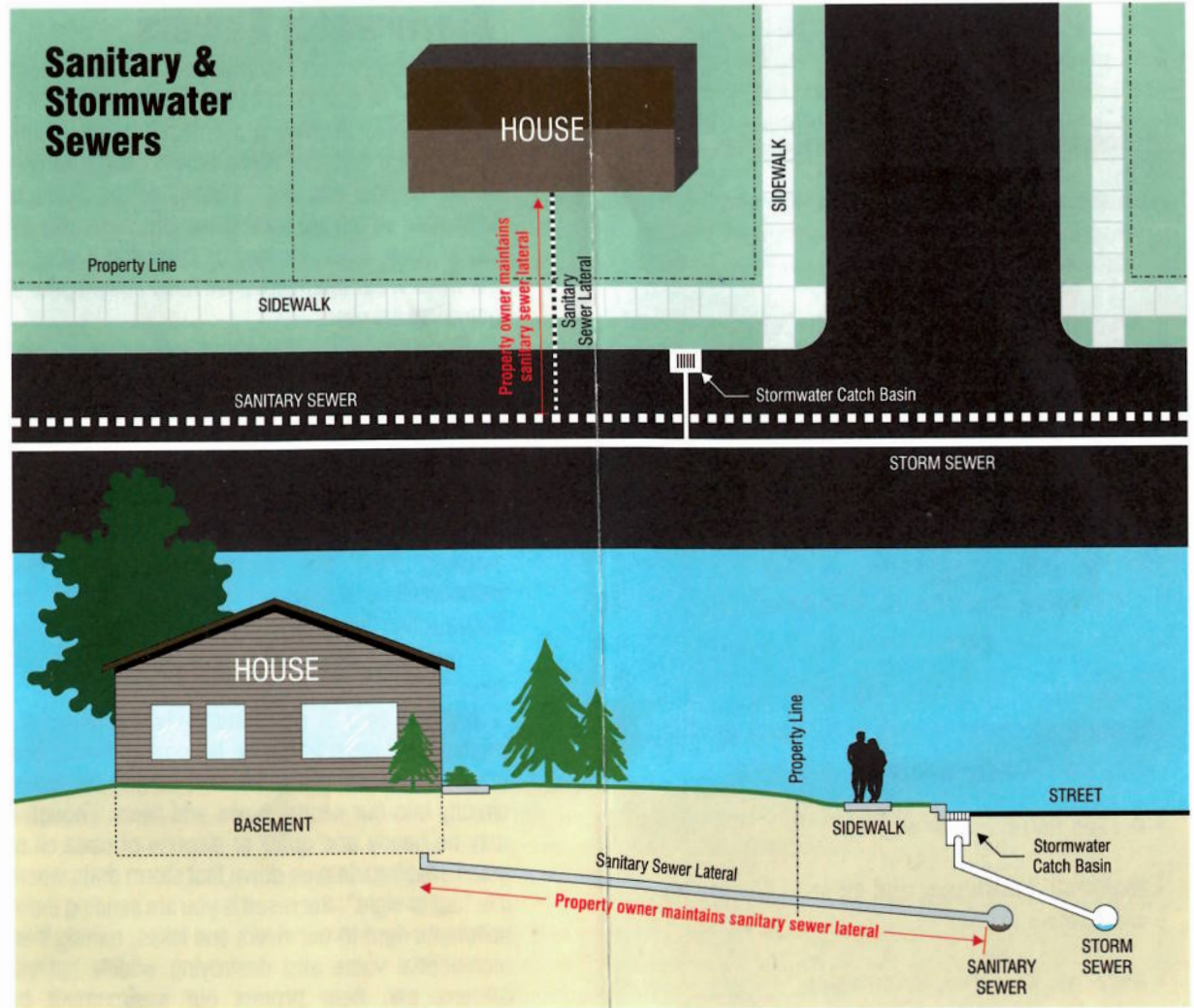
Sanitary Sewers

Residents may occasionally experience sanitary sewer back-ups due to typical problems associated with the operation of a sewer system. Potential problems include tree roots, clogs or build-up in the line, illegal connections, foreign objects being introduced into the sewer, intense rainfall, etc. When obstructions are discovered, City staff will identify and clear them as quickly as possible to minimize any possible private property damage and inconvenience to citizens. If a problem area is identified, the frequency of routine maintenance is increased in the area until the cause(s) can be identified and eliminated.

What should I do if I experience a sanitary sewer system back-up?

Contact the City of Grand Rapids Sewer Maintenance Division at **456-3246**. You can expect a maintenance crew to respond as soon as possible. Time of day and workload do affect response capability.

City crews will advise you if it is determined that



there is not a problem in the City sanitary sewer main. At that point, you may choose to have your lateral line checked and/or cleaned by a plumber or sewer cleaner. The City will not choose, recommend, or contact a plumber or sewer cleaner for you. You have a responsibility to mitigate your damages as soon as possible. For insurance purposes, it is advisable to document any damage and take photographs prior to beginning clean-up;

but if unable, you should not wait to begin sanitizing your home.

Citizens are highly encouraged to maintain an insurance policy that covers instances of sanitary sewer overflow or back-up. If you have any questions regarding damages incurred as a result of a sanitary sewer back-up please contact the Risk Management office of the City of Grand Rapids at **456-3467**.