

Clean Water

At A Glance

Storm Drain
Maintenance

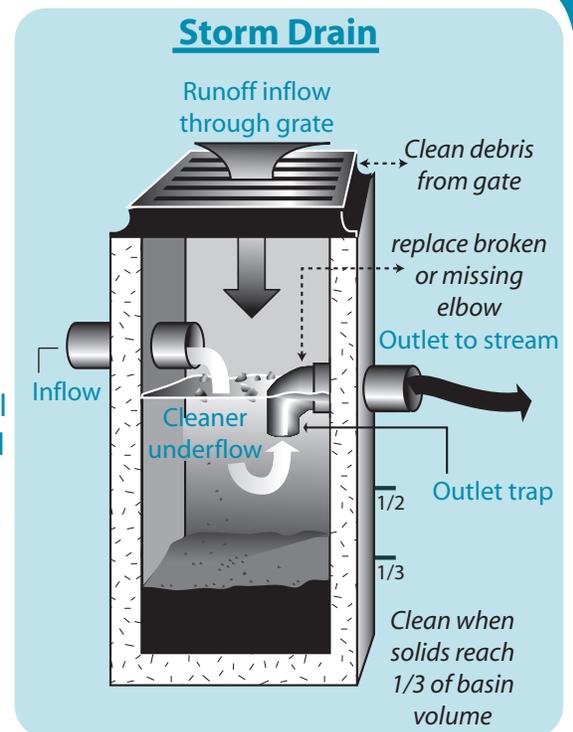
Storm Drain Maintenance

Stormwater is rainwater and anything that is carried along with it. In Springfield, when rain falls on driveways, sidewalks and streets it is carried away by drainage ditches, swales and a system of pipes, typically ending up in the Willamette or McKenzie River. Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated before flowing into our waterways.

Storm drains, also called catch basins, are inlets to the stormwater system that include a grate and a basin to capture sediment, debris, and other pollutants. These drains are designed to prevent flooding and improve the quality of water entering our rivers. Proper storm drain maintenance is essential for flood control and water quality protection. It is the responsibility of the private property owner to maintain drains on his or her property to minimize release of pollutants to the public stormwater system. You can hire a contractor to clean your drains or do it yourself following the steps below.

Storm Drain Maintenance Procedures:

- Remove leaves and debris from the grate and dispose of in the garbage or your yard debris to prevent flooding.
- Determine which features are present in your drains. Do they have collection sumps, separators, filters, or other water quality treatment components? Fix or replace any components that are damaged.
- If there is no potential for prohibited or hazardous materials to enter the drain, you may dispose of water to the sanitary sewer system through an onsite sewer connection. Prior to disposal, call Springfield's Industrial Pretreatment staff for permission at 541-726-3693. Remove all debris from the collection sump when it has reached a level of one-third the distance between the bottom of the outlet pipe and the bottom of the basin. A yard stick can be used to measure debris depth. Ensure the waste that has collected in the basin does not enter the outpipe during cleaning.
- Consider the types of activities that occur at the site to determine how you will dispose of the basin solids. Most basin debris may be disposed of in the common trash if it is dry. If there is a potential for chemicals or hazardous materials to enter the drain call Lane County Waste Management at 541-682-3828 for information on the proper disposal of the removed liquids waste or for names of companies that can legally dispose of such waste.
- Never puncture the pipe or remove components of the system if the drain appears plugged. Instead, remove the accumulated debris and unclog the pipe or box.
- Consider using an oil-absorbent filter or pillow in the drain to capture oil from leaky vehicles. Several types are available from environmental, safety, or industrial suppliers. Some drains can be easily retrofitted with a separator and/or a filter. Filters should be cleaned and replaced as directed by the manufacturer. →



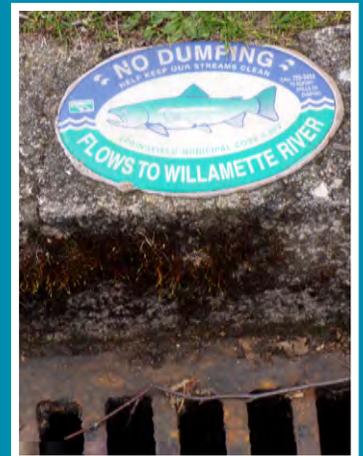
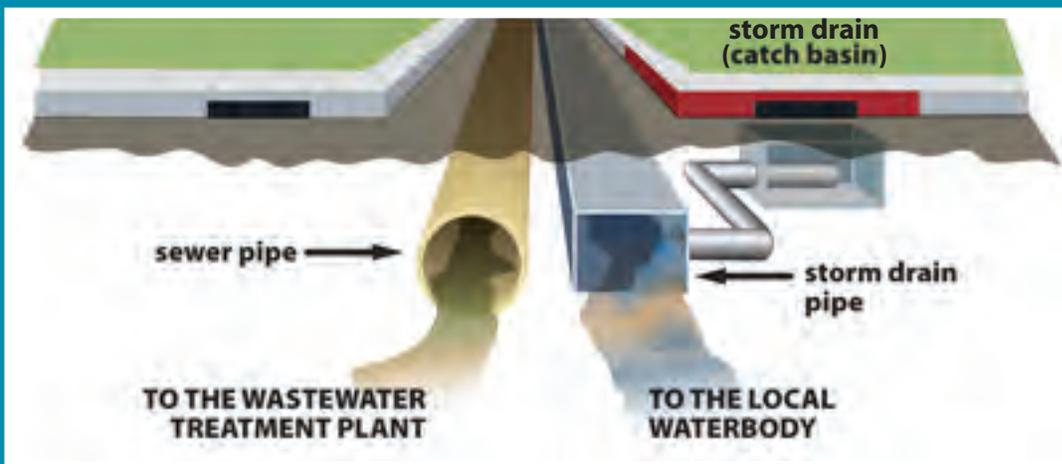
The River Begins at Your Front Door

To report a stormwater problem:
Water Pollution Reporting Hotline
(541) 726-3694



Other Tips for Storm Drain Care:

- Clean drains at least once a year. Clean more often if debris accumulates quickly or contaminants have entered the drain.
- Consider marking the storm drains with a “Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream” message.
- Clean parking lots and other paved areas with regular sweeping or dry cleaning methods.
- Never hose, wash, or dump anything into a storm drain (Springfield Municipal Code 4.372, Stormwater Illicit Discharges).
- Cover materials stored outside to prevent rainwater from leaching pollutants into the stormwater system. Contain chemicals properly and store under cover.
- Protect all drains during construction activities.



Help protect our waterways.
Only rain down the drain!

For more information on storm drain cleaning methods, companies which provide this service, or stormwater protection in general, please call the City of Springfield Environmental Services Division at (541) 726-3694.