

Clear drains prevent flooding

Sometimes heavy rains can totally overwhelm Fort Wayne's storm sewer system. In autumn, falling leaves can block storm drain inlets causing standing water and localized flooding even during smaller rain storms. You and your neighbors can protect your property and help ensure that emergency and other vehicles have access to your neighborhood by doing the following:

1. Be a good neighbor and remove leaves and other material from the gutters and storm sewer inlets near your home before it rains. This helps prevent street flooding during future rain storms and keeps your neighborhood looking tidy and well maintained.
2. If you notice that your street is flooding, clear accumulated leaves and other debris from storm sewer inlets to keep the water flowing.
3. Manage yard waste properly by keeping it out of the street and storm drain.
4. Never pour chemicals, grease, oil, paint, or any other fluids down storm sewers.

Fort Wayne's Street Department employees will pick up leaves and will clean leaves off the streets, and City Utilities has a program to clean the city's approximately 19,500 inlets about once every three years. But the City also relies on your efforts as a good neighbor to reduce flooding and protect property in your neighborhood. Thank you for doing your part!



Credit: slobod / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Dispose of HHW on Tuesdays and at Tox-Away Saturday events

Did you know that each person in the United States produces an average of 4 pounds of household hazardous waste (HHW) every year? This means an average U.S. household generates more than 20 pounds per year. Annually, U.S. households generate about 530,000 tons of HHW!

HHW can easily accumulate in your home, often remaining until you move, remodel, or undertake a large clean-out. This stored HHW can create risks to your family and emergency workers in the event of fires or natural disasters. It's best to dispose of unwanted products promptly.

So take a look at your household products this month and decide what you don't need. Take all unwanted HHW to the Allen County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 2260 Carroll Road in Fort Wayne. Residents must enter the facility from Recovery Road via Lima Road. Drop-off hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays each week and on scheduled Tox-Away Saturdays. The final Tox-Away Saturdays scheduled for this year will be October 10, 2020 and November 14, 2020. Some fees will apply. There is a weight limit of 50 pounds per visit.

Please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers. Remember, never mix chemicals together. When loading HHW into your car or van, place items into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible.

For more information, visit www.acwastewatcher.org/programs/household-hazardous-waste-disposal or call 260-449-7878.

DO BRING

Automotive Fluids
Fertilizers
Fire Extinguishers
Household Batteries
Household Cleaners
Lead-Acid Batteries
Mercury/Mercury-containing items (e.g., fluorescent bulbs)
Oil-based paint
Pesticides & Herbicides
Propane Tanks
Pool Chemicals

DO NOT BRING

Appliances
Explosives
Electronic Materials
Infectious Waste
Industrial Hazardous Waste
Latex Paint
Medications
Radioactive Materials
Steel Drums
Tires

Recycle right — and safely!

Recycling continues to provide important raw materials to manufacturers making products from shipping boxes to food packaging and more. Follow these simple guidelines to recycle correctly and safely:

DO

- Only place accepted materials into your recycling container. If you aren't sure what recyclables we accept, visit www.RecycleFortWayne.org or give us a call at 260-427-8311.
- Empty, rinse, and dry bottles, cans, and jugs before putting them into your recycling cart.
- Break down and flatten cardboard boxes. Cut large boxes into pieces, if needed, to fit inside your recycling cart.
- Put LOOSE recyclables into your recycling cart.
- Place all recyclables and trash inside your containers with the lids closed. This allows for contactless collection, keeping collection workers safer and making trips through your neighborhood more efficient.
- Wash your hands before and after taking your containers to the curb.
- If someone in your home has COVID-19 or suspects they have COVID-19, please treat your recyclables as trash until all household members are out of isolation.

DON'T

- Don't bag your recycling.
- Don't put disposable masks, sanitizing or other wipes, latex gloves, tissues, or paper towels into your recycling cart. All of these items go into the trash.
- Don't put food or liquids into the recycling cart.
- Don't put clothing, textiles, hoses, cords, or plastic bags into the recycling cart.
- Don't put any kind of batteries or battery-containing devices into your recycling cart. Batteries can cause fires in trucks and at recycling facilities. If you aren't sure what to do with old batteries, visit www.acwastewatcher.org/programs/household-battery-recycling.
- Don't overfill your cart or put extra recyclables on the ground or lid. Hold extra materials for the next collection or drop them off at a recycling center.
- Don't crowd workers or neighbors as you recycle. Whether at street side or a recycling drop-off location, be sure to socially distance, keeping at least 6 feet between yourself and others.



Image Courtesy of The Recycling Partnership

What's my recycling day?

If you want to check your every-other-week recycling schedule, go to www.acimap.us/trashdaylookup. You simply enter your address and you'll have the information you need.

No wonder she's happy! She knows this box will do double duty — first, as the container delivering her most recent order and second, as a raw material to create new boxes and other paper products when she recycles. Learn more about the role you play as a consumer and a recycler in this short video from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: https://youtu.be/_ADZ8vH-r4M.



Credit: PeopleImages | E+ | Getty Images

How can I handle all of these plastic bags?

REFUSE a plastic bag if you don't need it. If you only have an item or two, carry them in your hands. When possible, choose paper bags which are accepted in all recycling carts and drop-off recycling bins.

REUSE plastic shopping bags by taking them back to the store and refilling them with groceries where allowed. Make sure the bags are clean and dry. For added safety, allow used bags to sit for three days before reuse. As always, please follow local and state public health guidelines, and do not shop or take anything to a store if there's reason to suspect that anyone in your household has been exposed to COVID-19. Being green is important, but so is protecting store employees so they can continue to provide essential services.

REPURPOSE bags around the house. Larger plastic bags can be used as trash liners for small waste baskets. Smaller bags, such as bread bags, can be used for food storage or for pet waste disposal.

RECYCLE empty, clean plastic bags and film, such as shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, shipping "pillows," bubble wrap, and plastic wrappers from cases of water bottles and other drinks, when and where possible. Plastic bags are accepted for recycling in take-back bins at local retail stores, such as Kroger, Target, Lowe's, and Walmart. Check with stores to see whether they are accepting plastic bags during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some stores have temporarily halted collection of plastic bags and wraps, and some of you are not comfortable venturing out. If either is the case, please consider collecting your plastic bags and wraps at home until events change. Plastic bags are compressible and take up little space. **NEVER** place plastic bags and wraps in your recycling cart.

REPLACE plastic bags with reusable shopping bags whenever possible. If stores are not allowing customers to bring in reusable bags at this time, please consider placing your purchased items back into the shopping cart at checkout and then transferring them to reusable bags at your car. As always, reusable bags should be cleaned often and allowed to dry completely between uses.



Holiday trash pick-up reminder

There will be no trash and recycling pick-up on these holidays. If your regular collection day is on or after the holiday, your services will be one day later than normal that week.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1

Visit www.cityoffortwayne.org for details.

Credit: Lilibous | E+ | Getty Images



Mayor Tom Henry

City of Fort Wayne Solid Waste Department

200 East Berry St., Suite 210

Fort Wayne, IN 46802-1804

427-8311

www.RecycleFortWayne.org