



GATEWAY

On Call. On Time. On Target.

THE GATEWAY ENGINEERS, INC.

201 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 200
BUTLER, PA 16001

724 287 1055 PHONE
724 287 1104 FAX

www.gatewayengineers.com

Please read the following announcements at the monthly-televised City meetings.

January

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to ensure that local residents are aware of the two types of systems that are within Butler City and the other local municipalities. The one system is the **sanitary sewer system**, in which toilets, sinks and garbage disposals are all connected and flow into a treatment facility that removes all of the contaminants and then discharges clean water into a local waterway. The **storm sewer system** is made up of catch basins that are usually placed along curbs in streets and parking lots and direct stormwater runoff through a series of pipes directly into the local waterway. Please be aware that there is no treatment for stormwater, so do not dump anything into the storm sewer catch basins. If you are unsure about the proper disposal of any type of waste material, please contact your local municipality.

February

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for salting driveways and sidewalks. If too much salt is applied, it will runoff into the storm sewer system and impact our local waterways. Please keep the de-icing materials away from landscaping and keep it isolated to the walkway or driveway. Also, if you change the fluids in your automobile, please recycle the used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Do not dump these chemicals down the storm drains or dispose of them in the trash. If you want to temporarily store any of these chemicals on your property, just make sure that they are in sealed containers that will not rust or leak and try to keep them in a dry place.

March

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to properly clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paints to local organizations. Also, sweep and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar. Always protect your hands, eyes, and ears when working and touching construction materials containing chemicals. If you are unsure how to properly dispose of construction waste, please contact your local municipality. Never dump anything into the storm sewer system.

April

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents that when walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving the waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into storm drains and eventually into the local streams.

Also, if you plan on washing your vehicle, use a commercial car wash if possible. Car washes are setup to treat or recycle the wastewater. If you want to wash your vehicle, pull the car onto a lawn area to wash it. This way, all of the soap and water will infiltrate into the ground. Try not to wash the car on a paved surface as all the runoff will flow onto the street and into a nearby storm sewer. Soaps, wax and other chemicals used to clean cars are toxic to fish and aquatic organisms.

May

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to please use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly on their lawns. When necessary, use these chemicals in their recommended amounts. Avoid applying chemicals if rain is in the forecast because the rain will wash all of the chemicals off the lawn area into the storm sewers and into the local streams. Don't over-water your lawns and if you are going to water, do it during the cool times of the day and don't let the water runoff into the streets.

Also, check your cars, boats, lawn mowers, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible, and clean any spills up with an absorbent type material such as kitty litter or sand. **Do not rinse any spills into the streets or storm sewers.** This will go directly into local streams.

June

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to properly store pool and spa chemicals, as well as other household and vehicle chemicals to prevent leaks and spills. Please make sure they are in sealed containers that will not rust or leak and try to keep them in a dry place, preferably in covered areas to avoid exposure to stormwater.

July

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof rain barrels. The water can then be used later to water lawns and garden areas. Do not brush/sweep dirt, leaves, etc. into any storm drain. The purpose of the storm sewers are to direct stormwater runoff to the local streams. If the system is clogged, then localized flooding may occur during a large rainfall event.

August

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents that if you plan to drain your pool, only drain it when your test kit does not detect any chlorine levels. Chlorine is considered toxic to fish and aquatic organisms. Whenever possible, drain the pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system. Contact your local municipality if you have any questions regarding how to properly drain your pool or spa.

September

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to properly dispose the leaves on your property and not brush/sweep dirt, leaves, etc. into any storm drain or onto any street. Either place the leaves and dirt on a compost pile, or contact your local municipality for "leaf collection" days or to see what programs your municipality offers for the disposal of yard waste. Remember, the purpose of the storm sewers is to direct stormwater runoff to the local streams. If the system is clogged from garbage, yard waste and dirt, then flooding may occur during a large rainfall event.

October

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to properly clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paints to local organizations. Also, sweep and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar. Always protect your hands, eyes, and ears when working and touching construction materials containing chemicals. If you are unsure how to properly dispose of construction waste, please contact your local municipality. Never dump anything into the storm sewer system.

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