



## Street Sweeping and Catch Basin Debris Management and Disposal for MS4s and Other Communities

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[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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### Description

- This fact sheet describes:
  - Environmental regulations that apply to disposing, storing, processing, and using street sweeping debris.
  - Environmental regulations that apply to debris generated by catch basins and other similar drainage structures.
- This fact sheet does not apply to:
  - Clean up waste from roadway spills or accidents.
  - Sweeping debris or catch basin waste generated at industrial or privately-owned facilities.
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) are defined as a conveyance or system of conveyances owned by a state, city, town, or other public entity that discharges to waters of the United States and is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater. Regulated conveyance systems include roads with drains, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, storm drains, piping, channels, ditches, tunnels and conduits.
- MS4s use a variety of controls to meet water quality standards including street sweeping and installation of catch basins.
- Street sweeping debris and catch basin debris meet the definition of “Pollution control waste” found in 329 IAC 10-2-137. Pollution control waste is one of the examples of solid waste found in 329 IAC 10-2-174.

### Health and Environmental Impacts

- Responsible management of street sweeping and catch basin debris protects public health and the environment by preventing it from contaminating ground water, surface water or soil.
- The discharge of decant water and/or any other water associated with catch basin maintenance and street sweeping to a waterway, wetland, or other natural (i.e. karst feature) area is prohibited.

### Role of MS4s and other communities

- MS4s and other communities that manage their stormwater systems are responsible for proper management, storage, processing/screening and disposal of street sweepings and catch basin debris.
- If the entity is a designated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), the operator of the MS4 is required by their permit to have a program in place that includes written procedures for the proper disposal of waste or materials removed from separate storm sewer systems and operational areas.
- Non-hazardous waste generated by an MS4 may be disposed at a municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF).
- Prior to disposal, the street sweepings and catch basin debris should be dried or de-watered if free liquids are present.

#### Catch Basin Management

- Catch Basin debris is typically taken to a municipally owned and operated facility to remove free liquids. Sticks and branches may be removed and directed to a registered composting facility. The remaining waste may be combined with grit and bar screenings and sent to a permitted MSWLF for proper disposal.
- Catch basin cleaning may also involve removal of water from the sump. It is important that the decanted water is disposed of properly, especially if the water is contaminated or there is high probability that it is contaminated. A high probability would exist in areas where there is active industrial operations draining to the storm system. To evaluate a storm system, it is recommended that a grab sample is taken to evaluate the water for a visible sheen, discoloration, obvious odor, etc. If these or any other indicators are present,

the water must be collected and contained in a truck or closed system so that it may be disposed of as a waste product.

If the water is determined to be clear and free of visual indicators of contamination, it may be disposed in one of the methods listed below:

- Into the sanitary sewer system (if allowed by the local authority).
- Back into the storm sewer system as long as it is contained within the system during dry weather conditions to ensure no discharge into surface water.

#### Street Sweeping Management

- Disposal in a permitted MSWLF is the most common and appropriate disposal option.
- Continued use of street sweepings for traction control or for temporary fill in the roadway (such as filling potholes) may be done without any further approval from IDEM's Office of Land Quality. Continued use must occur as allowed by local authority. If screening and removal of other solid waste (such as litter, trash and other debris) is necessary, the activity should be conducted on city or town-owned or leased property so that a solid waste processing facility permit is not required.
- The MS4 must obtain approval for any other use of street sweeping debris. Potential end uses include:
  - Commissioner's approval for legitimate use of a solid waste. Examples include structural fill under a paved road or a concrete building slab.
  - Land Application or Marketing and Distribution permit. Examples include mixing with compost or other agricultural application where there is an agronomic benefit.
  - Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) at a municipal solid waste landfill. The IDEM Fact Sheet titled "Use of Alternative Daily Cover at Landfills" can be found at:  
[https://www.in.gov/idem/files/factsheet\\_landfill\\_alt\\_cover.pdf](https://www.in.gov/idem/files/factsheet_landfill_alt_cover.pdf)

#### **IDEM's Role**

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Office of Water Quality regulates Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). Under this program, all MS4s are required to maintain catch basins. MS4s can also choose to implement a street sweeping program.
- IDEM's Office of Land Quality regulates solid and hazardous waste.
- The Legitimate Use Program is overseen by IDEM's Industrial Waste Compliance Section. Land application and Marketing and Distribution permits are issued by the Solid Waste Permits Section.
- IDEM maintains a list of permitted landfills on the IDEM website at  
[https://www.in.gov/idem/landquality/files/permits\\_sw\\_issued.pdf](https://www.in.gov/idem/landquality/files/permits_sw_issued.pdf)

#### **More Information**

##### Office of Land Quality

- For additional information regarding Indiana's Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulations or the Legitimate Use Program, please contact IDEM's Industrial Waste Compliance Section at (317) 234-6951.
- For additional information regarding Land Application or Marketing and Distribution Permits, please contact the Solid Waste Permit Section at (317) 232-4473.

##### Office of Water Quality

- Please contact IDEM's Stormwater Program at (317) 232-8670 for information regarding stormwater regulations, resource materials, and programs.
  - For additional information on the MS4 Program, please visit IDEM's website at <https://www.in.gov/idem/stormwater/2333.htm>; or
  - The Rule 13 Guidance Document can be found here:  
[https://www.in.gov/idem/stormwater/files/rule\\_13\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.in.gov/idem/stormwater/files/rule_13_guidance.pdf)