

Chapter 153:NON-STORMWATER DISCHARGES

§ 153-6. Discharge Prohibitions

A. Prohibition of illegal discharges. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses any materials, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing any pollutants that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standards, other than storm water. The commencement, conduct, or continuance of any illegal discharge to the storm drain system is prohibited except as described as follows:

- (1) The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this chapter: water line flushing or other potable water sources, landscape irrigation or lawn watering, diverted stream flows, rising groundwater, groundwater infiltration to storm drains, uncontaminated pumped groundwater, foundation or footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems), crawl space pumps, air conditioning condensation, springs, natural riparian habitat or wetland flows, swimming pools (if dechlorinated, typically less than 1ppm), fire fighting activities and any other water source not containing pollutants.
(2) Discharges specified in writing by the authorized enforcement agency as being necessary to protect public health and safety.
(3) Dye testing is an allowable discharge but requires a verbal notification to the authorized enforcement agency prior to the time of the test.
(4) The prohibition shall not apply to any non-storm water discharge permitted under an NPDES permit, waiver or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the EPA, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the storm drain system.

B. Prohibitions of illicit connections.

- (1) The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the storm drain system is prohibited.
(2) This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under the law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.
(3) A person is considered to be in violation of this chapter if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the MS4 or allows such a connection to continue.

* For more information, please review the Columbia Borough Code (available at the Borough Office).

Borough of Columbia



THE BOROUGH OF COLUMBIA

308 Locust Street
Columbia, PA 17512

Phone: 717-684-2467
Fax: 717-684-7764
Email: columbiaborough@comcast.net

We're on the web:

www.columbiapa.net

Current Resident
Columbia, PA 17512

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Borough of Columbia



Special points of interest:

- Leading the way with waste!
When It Rains...
Recycling 904: Could you be doing more?
Columbia Watershed Group
Chapter 153

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Roll Tide Times

Columbia is Leading the Way with Waste!

Surely you are familiar with yard waste collection by now. From the monthly curbside pickups to the weekend open houses, Columbia Borough residents are seemingly bombarded with opportunities to recycle their organic waste.

However, you may not be aware that Columbia Borough has taken the lead throughout the state to become the largest municipal-partner network in Pennsylvania. With eleven municipal partners, Columbia Borough is officially leading the way with yard waste and setting an example for other municipalities throughout the state!

Of course, we could not have attained this honor without the dedication and hard work of our Public Service Manager and his wonderful staff. Their commitment to this program has made it a truly remarkable and successful operation.

Likewise, it is because of the generous help of PA DEP and the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority that Columbia Borough has acquired the equipment and knowledge necessary to maintain such a large operation. They have truly gone to great lengths to show their support for our town and for that, we are forever grateful.

And lastly, but surely not least, the Borough of Columbia extends a big "Thank You!" to the wonderful residents of this town for their participation in this program. Keep up the great work Columbia!!



What's in Your Water?

Do you ever wonder how Columbia's local waterways measure up to state standards? If aquatic ecosystems are truly an indicator of local environmental health, then what are our local streams and river saying about the quality of life here in Columbia?

Last October, Columbia Borough formed its very own watershed group to help answer ques-

tions like these so we can take the steps necessary to ensure that our residents enjoy clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing waterways.

From water testing to stream cleanups and bank restoration, the Columbia Borough Watershed Group is committed to improving the quality of Columbia's water. If you think this sounds like a worthwhile and interesting

undertaking, take action and get involved with the group! You can check out the website www.columbiapa.net for more information and meeting times OR contact Michelle at (717) 684-2654 X 57 for details.

Columbia Borough Watershed Group





“Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant. This water flows directly into our creeks and tributaries.”



When it Rains: Helpful Summertime Tips

The warm summertime air inspires many of us to get outside and catch up on our outdoor maintenance and leisure activities. However, did you know that your regular summer activities may be harming your local watershed? When you find yourself preparing to wash your car, fill your swimming pool, or tackle the weeds in your back yard, keep these helpful hints in mind!

Washing Your Car

Water generated by car washing can contain metals, degreasers, oils and detergents. Wash water runoff can transport these pollutants into storm drains where these materials significantly degrade local water quality. Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant so this water flows directly into our creeks and tributaries.

Helpful Tips

- Use a commercial car washing facility. Commercial facilities recycle their water or treat it before discharging it to the sanitary sewer system.
- If using a commercial facility is not possible, then wash your car on gravel, grass or another area able to absorb the wash water.
- Only use detergents and soaps that say “biodegradable” or “phosphate free.”
- When cleaning the car interior, make sure all waste paper, trash, and cups are properly disposed of in the trash or recycled.



Maintaining Your Pool

Waste water generated by pools can contain contaminants such as chlorine, muriatic acid, solids from filtration and sulfur compounds. These materials can degrade local waters when allowed to flow into our storm drain system. If you are caught draining your pool into the storm drain, you will be subject to severe penalties and/or fines, plus the cost of cleanup.

Helpful Tips

- Do not allow pool water to discharge directly into the storm drain system. Instead, look for alternative disposal methods. This could include landscaping, irrigation, or storage for use during the next pool season.
- Once the chemical balance has been checked, another method of water disposal is to allow it to flow slowly across a vegetated area. [Make sure it doesn't impact neighboring properties, nearby waterbodies, or flow into the street.]
- Since backwashing is usually done using the pool water, make sure the chlorine level in the backwash water has been allowed to dissipate or has been dechlorinated to undetectable levels. The pH of the backwash water should be 6.5 to 8.5.

Caring For Your Lawn

Fertilizers, pesticides, and other garden chemicals are often washed into our storm drains by sprinklers or rainwater. Carrying harmful chemicals and/or excess nutrients, these materials degrade local waters and threaten aquatic species.



Helpful Tips

- Only apply pesticides and fertilizers in dry weather without a lot of wind.
- Store pesticides, fertilizer, and other garden chemicals inside or in covered, bermed areas to prevent contaminated runoff.
- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers.
- Read labels and use pesticides and fertilizers as directed. Do not overapply.
- Keep fertilizers off of paved areas and sidewalks by turning the spreader off when you cross them. Otherwise, the fertilizer will wash directly into storm drains and/or waterways during the next rain.

Recycling 904 - Could You Be Doing More?

Do you know what materials should be in your bin each week? Do you make an effort to recycle everything you can or are you allowing some recyclables to make their way into the trash? If you aren't giving recycling your full effort, here are a few facts that may make you change your mind:

- Did you know that Columbia Borough receives grant money each year based on the total tons recycled?

That's right! The more you recycle, the more money you help to bring into the borough to fund better programs for you and your family.

- Recycling one glass container saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- Each ton of paper that is recycled saves 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, and 7000 gallons of water.

- If we recycled every plastic bottle we used, we would keep 2 billion tons of plastic out of landfills (Penn State).
- Every year enough paper is thrown away to make a 12 ft. wall from New York to California.
- Glass can be reused an infinite number of times; over 41 billion glass containers are made each year (EPA).



“Each ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, and 7000 gallons of water.”

Recycling 902: Columbia Borough's Yard Waste Program

Why does Columbia Collect Leaves and Yard Waste?

As a mandated municipality with more than 10,000 residents, we are required through PA Act 101 to collect leaves and yard waste material. Yard waste collection significantly reduces the amount of material taken to landfills each year and thus, increases the storage capacity and lifecycle of your local landfill.



Rules and Regulations for Pickup

- * Only woody waste, leaves, grass, sticks, and shrubs will be picked up.
- * All woody waste and sticks **must be secured** with twine into manageable sized bundles.
- * All leaves, grass clippings, and other small organic debris **must be bagged**. NO PLASTIC BAGS!
- * **ABSOLUTELY NO** garbage or refuse will be permitted in yard waste material.

Purchasing Bags

Bags are sold Monday through Friday at the Borough Office. The cost is \$0.75 per bag or \$2.00 for three bags. Please note: Only bags purchased through the Borough will be accepted at time of pickup.

Collection Schedule

- Tuesdays:** All properties North of Route 462
- Thursdays:** All properties South of Route 462

Learning about Native Species vs Non-Native or Invasive Species

A **native** plant is one which occurred within the state before settlement by Europeans. There are over 2,100 native plant species known in Pennsylvania. Alternatively, an **introduced** or **non-native** plant is one that has been brought into the state from another area or continent and become established. Some non-

native plants become **invasive species** or weed pests; invasive plants grow aggressively, spread quickly, and displace native plants because they lack natural pests, diseases, and predators in their new habitat.

In order to protect and enhance our native plant biodiversity, as

well as the insects and animals that depend on it, we must work to increase the number of native plants in our area and eliminate invasive species.

For more information and a list of native Pennsylvania plants, please refer to the following resource: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>



Above: The Sugar Maple is one example of a native PA tree.