



How long does it take for storm drain stenciling instructions?

The local Project Coordinator is responsible for training. Instructions are relatively simple and will take approximately 30 minutes. The Coordinator provides an overview of the project, guidelines, safety procedures, and proper stenciling techniques. Stenciling kits and supplies are provided by the Coalition.

How do I get involved?

Call the Ottawa River Coalition at (419) 223-0040 x107 for more information on storm drain stenciling in the area closest to you. Thirteen communities are situated within the watershed: Ada, Allentown, Beavertown, Cairo, Columbus Grove, Cridersville, Dola, Elida, Kalida, Lafayette, Lima, Rimer, and Vaughsville.

What is the Ottawa River Coalition?

The Ottawa River Coalition is a non-profit organization established in 1993 in response to increasing attention to water quality issues. It represents the collaborative efforts of some 45 member and partner organizations, all working together to understand and protect local water quality. The Coalition's mission is to promote the wise management and use of the Ottawa River and its watershed as a valuable community resource.

Be a community stream keeper.

Help protect water quality in our local streams. Do not use storm drains as trash cans for wastes or for disposing of other unwanted household products. To find out more about water pollution prevention call (419)223-0040 x107.

Report pollution as it occurs.

In Allen County, report illegal dumping of trash and wastes to the Allen County Emergency Management Agency by calling 419-993-1405.

What you can do to help protect local water quality:

- Don't let vehicles leak oil, gas, antifreeze, and other fluids.
- Recycle used motor oil, gasoline, and anti-freeze.
- Compost yard wastes so that grass clippings, leaves and other materials are not washed down storm drains.
- Properly dispose of paints and other household hazardous waste.
- Donate unused portions of household and yard products or dispose of them at a hazardous waste collection event.
- Reduce fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use. Follow label use guidelines.
- Keep pet waste from entering storm drains.
- Place cigarette butts and other trash in proper containers.



OTTAWA RIVER COALITION

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Storm Drain Stenciling Project

OTTAWA RIVER
COALITION

*Helping Our
Watershed
Community
Prevent Pollution*



Some questions and answers about storm drain stenciling:

What are storm drains?

Storm drains or catch basins commonly serve to collect excess stormwater that runs off of streets, parking lots, yards, farmland, and other surfaces during a rainfall or snow-melt event.

Where does the water go?

Storm drains are generally connected to underground tile that carry stormwater directly to a river, creek, or ditch. The water that outlets into our streams through this process is generally not treated or cleaned in any way.

What is the connection between, storm drains and pollution?

Stormwater runoff is said to account for up to 90% of the pollution in our streams. This is called nonpoint source pollution.

What is nonpoint source pollution?

As the stormwater washes across the surfaces of our watershed, it picks up pollutants and transports them through the storm drains and then to the river. In this way, contaminants enter the stream from widespread and non-specific sources. Watershed citizens who use these storm drains to get rid of waste are unknowingly contributing to local water pollution.

Why stencil storm drains?

By stenciling, we help to alert other community members about the potential of water pollution. Through this community service project, we take an important step in protecting water quality in local streams.



Who can stencil storm drains?

Anyone with an interest in helping to improve water quality in their community or watershed can get involved!

- service organizations
- schools, teachers and students
- youth organizations
- families and individuals
- businesses and agencies

How old do you have to be for storm drain stenciling?

This project is not recommended for children under age ten. Younger children can participate with adequate adult supervision.

For minors adult supervision is mandatory.

How many people does it take to do storm drain stenciling?

We suggest working in a group of three to five people but stenciling can be done alone by an adult. One adult is required to be with each individual group of minors.

Is storm drain stenciling safe?

Safety is of the utmost importance considering that most drains are located along streets or in parking lots.

Stencilers wear orange safety vests for visibility in traffic. One person in a stenciling group serves as the traffic lookout and controller. Never stencil anywhere you feel it's unsafe.

How do you know where to do storm drain stenciling?

The Coalition is responsible for obtaining permission within a community to conduct stenciling activities. Stencilers are given a list of streets and maps. Groups will also need to keep a street tracking record. Stenciling sites will be matched to the group's location.