

# How to help prevent overflows:

**1 Check your downspouts and foundation** drains to make sure they are not connected to the sanitary sewer. These outdated connections, which are common in older homes, add excess water to the system during wet weather. It is also important to make any needed repairs on your home sewer line.



**2 Dispose of grease properly** to avoid blockages in city and homeowner sewers, which can cause overflows in waterways and basement backups. Do not pour grease into sinks or other drains. After it cools, place grease in the trash in a sealed container such as a coffee can.



**3 Discard disposable wipes in your trash.** They do not dissolve or break down and do stop up city and homeowner sewers. Even wipes that are labeled "flushable" shouldn't be flushed.



## QUESTIONS

### Should residents report a suspected sewer backup?

Yes. Please report any suspected overflows or basement backups in Springfield immediately to the Service Department at 937-525-5800.

### Who should I contact with general questions and concerns?

If you have questions about CSOs or wish to report missing, damaged, or vandalized signs and equipment, please contact the Service Department at 937-525-5800 or via email [tweaver@springfieldohio.gov](mailto:tweaver@springfieldohio.gov).

### Where are overflow points located?

Discharge locations are along Buck Creek from Old Reid Park to the U.S. Route 40 Bridge near Snyder Park. There are also several CSOs along Mill Run and two on Mill Creek. Lastly, there is a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Bypass Station located near the U.S. Route 68 Bridge on the Mad River. For a list of all CSO locations within the City of Springfield and for more information, go to [springfieldohio.gov/cso](http://springfieldohio.gov/cso).

### Service Center

2100 Lagonda Avenue  
Springfield, Ohio 45503  
937-525-5800

### Wastewater Treatment Plant

965 Dayton Avenue  
Springfield, Ohio 45506  
937-324-7626

# Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)



# What are CSOs?

**Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)** are discharges of wastewater and stormwater from the combined sewer system that serves much of Springfield. Sewer overflows can occur at various discharge points along waterways when volume temporarily exceeds pipe capacity during and immediately following storm events.

# Why do overflows exist?

**These overflow points were** designed many years ago when the sewer collection system was first developed. In those days, this type of system was considered state-of-the-art, but since then we have developed better ways to manage stormwater. Some of these more modern techniques are being implemented in Springfield today.

# Are overflows an issue in other U.S. cities?

**Yes. Solving wet-weather issues** is the biggest challenge facing most sewer districts today.



**What is the City of Springfield doing about overflows?** The city's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) and CSO Long Term Control Plan address efforts for improving water quality of our local streams by treating or reducing overflows.

**How will residents benefit?** Reducing overflows will not only reduce basement backups, but it will also improve recreational and economic opportunities.

**How often do they overflow?** The frequency and volume depend on the amount of precipitation received, but a typical year may have 50 or more overflows.

**If I see an overflow sign, is it safe to swim near it?** First, be aware that swimming in unsupervised local waterways is dangerous. If you see a sign like this one, you should avoid contact with the creek or stream for at least 24 hours after the storm has ended and caution should be exercised thereafter.

