



Adopt-a-Drain Program

The Adopt-a-Drain Program is a Village of Plainfield-based effort aimed at reducing flooding and protecting our waterways during heavy rainstorms. With over 19,000 storm structures across 430 miles of residential roadways, this is no small task. The Public Works Department sweeps each residential roadway at least three times per year but there are times between those sweepings that debris may build up. That's why we're inviting residents to participate in this important program and team up with the Public Works Department to initiate a campaign to encourage proper stormwater management by Plainfield's residents. We must try to keep our street drains free of debris!

What Is A Storm Drain?

A storm drain is an infrastructure asset designed to collect and transport excess rainwater, snowmelt, and other surface runoff away from our homes and the community. Storm drains can be found along the edges of our streets and parkways, usually in the form of a metal grate that covers an opening leading to an underground pipe network. The storm sewers then direct the storm water to local retention and detention ponds, local streams, or rivers. Any pollution or debris that goes down a storm drain winds up entering these same waterways.



How Does The Adopt-a-Drain Program Help Our Community?

The Adopt-a-Drain program is an initiative that encourages residents to take an active role in keeping their neighborhood storm drains clean and free of debris. By adopting a storm drain in your area, you can help your community by:

- Reducing flooding during heavy rainstorms.
- Improving water quality in local rivers, lakes, and streams.
- Promoting community engagement and civic responsibility.



How Do I Adopt A Storm Drain?

Adopting a storm drain is simple! All you need to do is identify a storm drain near your home or business that needs attention and keep it clear of debris, such as leaves, litter, and other waste. This involves regularly sweeping the area around the storm drain and disposing of any debris properly.

By adopting a storm drain in our community, you can play an important role in protecting the environment and ensuring the safety of your neighborhood. Join the Adopt-a-Drain program today and help keep your community clean and healthy!

What Materials Are Needed To Clean A Drain?

Cleaning your drain is easy with a few household items you may already have at home. Here is a list of materials that will make it easier to clean your drain.

- ✓ **Gloves:** To protect your hands and keep them clean.
- ✓ **Rake/Broom:** To clear the debris.
- ✓ **Yard Waste Bag:** For leaves, grass, and other organic materials.
- ✓ **Trash/Recyclable Bags:** For garbage and litter.
- ✓ **Reflective Clothing:** For your safety, especially when working on busy streets.

How Often Should I Clean A Drain?

It is suggested that you check and clean your drain a few times and year.

In addition to when heavy rain is expected, we also suggest cleaning your drains four times a year. The following schedule is a guide to help keep you on track:



March: Ice and snow will begin to melt, leading to water in the streets, and hopefully down the drain.



April: April showers will typically bring heavier rainfall.



June: The grass is starting to grow and people are starting to mow. Grass clippings often clog drains.



October: The leaves are starting to fall and they can quickly clog drains.

Safety Guidelines For Staying Safe While Cleaning Drains.

- ✓ Wear appropriate clothing and shoes, including reflective apparel (i.e., safety vest).
- ✓ Avoid items that are hazardous or may cause injury to you or others.
- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings.
- ✓ **DO NOT** lift the drain grate.

Please Contact Public Works If:

- ✓ There's a drain you are unable to clean.
- ✓ Discover items that are hazardous to you or others.
- ✓ Suspect illegal dumping.
- ✓ There are any other issues you are unable to handle.

While cleaning the drains is important, your safety is our utmost priority.

Contact Information:

Plainfield Public Works: (815) 436-3577