Storm Drains vs Manholes

Maintained by the DPW
If you find any of these drains overflowing, covered with debris or not draining properly, please call the Plainfield DPW at 908-753-3427.

Maintained by the PMUA
If a manhole cap is loose, coming off, or if water is flowing out of the cover, call the PMUA Sewer Division at 908-226-2518 extension 228.

Sewer Emergency
If you are having a sewer emergency, please contact the PMUA Sewer Division at (908) 226-2518 during normal business hours. For after-hours emergencies, contact the Plainfield Police Department at (908) 753-3112.
Proper Sanitary Sewer Care

PMUA manages Plainfield’s sanitary sewer system, which provides for proper collection and treatment of the wastewater generated throughout the city.

There are 110 miles of sewer lines connecting to every residential, commercial, public and municipal property in the city. Keeping these pipes in good operating condition also requires the proper care of all sinks, toilets and other water drainage outlets that discharge from a property into the municipal sanitary sewer system. When these outlets are neglected or misused, there is a risk of a sewer backup.

Oftentimes, grease, wipes and other pipe-clogging items are discarded down the sink or toilet because it seems more convenient; but to help avoid a sewer emergency, it is important to keep these following items out of your water drains.

Never flush the following:
- Wipes, facial tissues, paper towels or napkins of any kind
- Feminine hygiene products, condoms, and any non-organic material
- Hair, dental floss and thread
- Food, grease and oils
- Medicine, vitamins or other pharmaceuticals
- Diapers and incontinence pads of any kind
- Toilet bowl scrub pads

Where Grease Comes From
- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter
- Margarine
- Food scraps
- Sauces

What Grease Can Cost You
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that the homeowner is responsible for.
- Potential health hazards and property damage. Raw sewage overflowing into your homes, yards, streets, and parks.
- Higher sewer bills due to increased maintenance costs for the PMUA.

Proper Grease Disposal
- Pour the grease and scraps into a cup, can or small container (preferably with a lid), then discard it in the garbage.
- Wipe greasy pots and pans with a paper towel before washing them and discard paper towel in the garbage.

Downspouts Should Not Be Connected To Sewer Line

Make sure your sump pump discharges properly outdoors and not into the city’s sanitary sewer system. While this might seem like an easier option than running a discharge tube from the sump pump to the exterior, it’s illegal in most cities, including Plainfield.

Illegal hookups can lead to a higher flow of water, causing your pipes to overfill and back up, as well as adding debris and silt that could clog your line. Consult a plumber to correct illegal connections or if you are unsure if your pump is properly connected.

Additionally, downspouts are also not allowed to be connected to the sanitary sewer system. Refer to the picture below for an example of a proper sump pump exterior discharge connection.