



## NEWS

### MSD OFFERS TIPS TO PROTECT HOMES AND PROPERTY DURING STORMS

*Rain events can occur any time of year*

**ST. LOUIS, Mo.** – Since heavy storms and rain events can occur throughout the year, MSD Project Clear is encouraging homeowners to play a part in reducing problems in their own homes and neighborhoods due to rain events. By following a few proactive steps, homeowners will help allow the area's stormwater sewers and drainage systems to operate at the highest possibly efficiency.

#### Tips for Homeowners:



- 💧 **Be sure gutters are free of leaves, branches, and other blockages.**

Blocked gutters can cause water to cascade down the side of a structure or pond on a roof, both of which can cause rainwater to enter a home.



- 💧 **Clear streets and inlets of debris.** Leaves, plastic bottles, branches, and other debris can easily block inlets. When high intensity rainstorms hit,

these items are washed into the inlets. Items that make it into the sewer decrease the amount of water that can be handled. Items that don't go into the sewer block inlets, which in-turn causes street and other localized flooding.



- 💧 **Clear downspouts and make sure they are directed away from your house.** Misdirected downspouts can focus water toward a home, causing flooding within the structure or foundation damage.



💧 **Clean Window Wells.** Many homes have window wells outside their basement windows. Be sure these areas are free of leaves and other debris so they can drain properly and as quickly as possible. If water accumulates, it presses up against the basement window, which in turn can seep into or even flood your basement.



💧 **Clean Stairwell Drains.** Homes that can be entered through a basement door will have a drain at the bottom of the stairwell. Make sure this drain is not blocked and is clear of leaves and other debris. Accumulating water in the stairwell can also seep in and flood your basement.



💧 **Check sump pumps.** Water from a sump pump should drain away from the house so that it does not flow back into the basement. Many sump pumps incorrectly lead to the basement drain - the pump's drain should lead outside. It's a good idea to have a backup pump in case the primary pump fails.



💧 **Limit indoor water use.** By limiting the use of dishwashers, washing machines, bathtubs, and the like during intense rainfalls, less demand will be put on the sewer system. In those parts of our area with sewers handling both wastewater and stormwater, the ability to handle stormwater will be increased.



💧 **Clear drainage paths on your property.** In many parts of our community, small creeks, streams, and other waterways provide stormwater drainage. Ensure that the path rainwater travels from your property to drain into these waterways is clear of possible blockages. Portable pools, loose recreational equipment, piles of yard debris (grass clippings, branches, etc.), and the like can block these drainage ways and stop water from draining as quickly

as possible from your property. Remove these possible blockages and ensure that rainwater has an unimpeded flow to the waterway.



💧 **Keep local creeks & streams clear.** Local creeks, streams, and other waterways provide stormwater drainage for many parts of our community. The vast majority of these waterways are private property. Thus, responsibility to keep these waterways maintained and clear falls on adjacent property owners or the subdivision as a whole. Ensuring that these waterways are clear of grass clippings, branches, fallen trees, and other debris will allow rainwater to be carried away as quickly as possible.

### **About MSD Project Clear**

MSD Project Clear is the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's initiative to improve water quality and alleviate many wastewater concerns in the St. Louis region. MSD Project Clear will invest billions of dollars over a generation in planning, designing, and building community rainscaping and system improvements, along with an ambitious program of maintenance and repair and the disconnection of some residential downspouts in parts of St. Louis County's separate sewer area from the wastewater sewer line. This work is part of an agreement between MSD and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The St. Louis region's success with MSD Project Clear will only be possible through strong partnerships and clear communications with the public.

To learn more about the MSD agreement with EPA, please visit [www.stlmsd.com/aboutmsd/organization/consentdecree](http://www.stlmsd.com/aboutmsd/organization/consentdecree). For more information on MSD Project Clear, visit [ProjectClearSTL.org](http://ProjectClearSTL.org) or follow us on Twitter [@ProjectClearSTL](https://twitter.com/ProjectClearSTL).

### **About the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD)**

Created in 1954, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) works every day to protect the public's health and the natural environment through effective wastewater and stormwater management strategies.

MSD is responsible for the public sewer system that homes and businesses connect to through lateral lines. Through a labyrinth of connected sewers, wastewater is transported to one of seven sewer treatment plants - nearly 7,000 miles of wastewater sewers in all. That is like going from St. Louis to New York City and back three times! Individual property owners are responsible for another important part of the system, the sewer lateral that connects a home's plumbing to the public sewer in the street.

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