



PENNSYLVANIA  
AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®



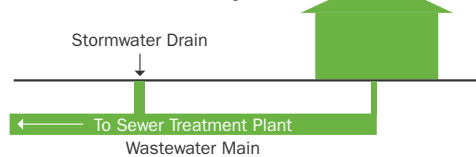
# SOAKING UP STORMWATER

## Combined Sewer Systems and Green Infrastructure

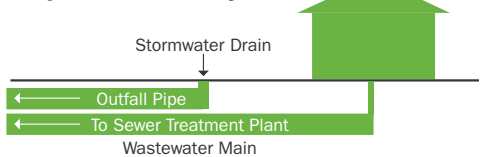
### COMBINED VS. SEPARATE SYSTEMS

In a **Separate Sewer System**, sanitary waste and stormwater are each transported through a separate and distinct piping system. Many municipalities are served by separated sewer collection systems. **Combined Sewer Systems** are also very common, where sanitary waste and stormwater combine and flow through one collection system. During large rain events, excess stormwater in a combined system can cause **Combined Sewer Overflows**, or CSOs. CSOs occur when too much wastewater enters the collection system and the excess, untreated water discharges into local tributaries. CSOs can adversely impact water quality in rivers and streams.

#### Combined Sewer System



#### Separate Sewer System



### IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERWAYS

The Clean Water Act requires municipalities with combined systems to reduce and eliminate overflows by separating their stormwater and sanitary wastewater collection systems. Residents are also an important part of this cooperative effort to comply with the demands of the Clean Water Act and improve water quality.

**Green Infrastructure** is a cost-effective approach to managing stormwater that provides many community and environmental benefits by slowing the movement of water runoff. Examples of Green Infrastructure include rain gardens, rain barrels, and permeable surfaces such as sidewalks or parking lots. By absorbing, storing and sometimes filtering this water, Green Infrastructure minimizes polluted runoff entering the collection system, helping reduce the frequency of CSOs. Homeowners can help their communities comply with the demands of the Clean Water Act by integrating Green Infrastructure into their property and helping reduce the harmful impact of stormwater runoff.

### LEARN MORE

For more information on managing stormwater around your home, visit us online at [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://pennsylvaniaamwater.com).



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