



Information to Collect and Record

- If you have a pollution incident reporting form record your observations on it. Otherwise record your information on paper, on a tape recorder, video camera with sound, or digital camera with sound.
- A good set of notes will provide a complete and accurate set of facts for others. Here is a basic checklist:
- Location of observation (GPS coordinates if possible, otherwise note name of water body, city, state, country, distance from shore, distance from some know land mark, etc.
- Owner of property from which discharge is coming (if known) and outfall identification if any.
- Time and date of your observation. Be sure to note AM or PM and whether standard time or day light savings time.
- Nature of observed material. Color, thickness, Arial extent, distance downstream if possible, number of dead fish, odors, etc.
- Weather conditions, air temperature, rain, snow, fog, etc.
- Names of persons making observations with phone numbers and/or email addresses.

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CITIZEN GUIDE For Reporting Water Pollution



PREPARED BY

THE DETROIT RIVERKEEPER

AND

FRIENDS OF THE DETROIT RIVER

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working for its preservation and
improvement





CITIZEN GUIDE FOR REPORTING WATER POLLUTION

You Can Help

Boaters, fishermen, hunters, and nature lovers who frequent the waters and shorelines of Southeast Michigan's waterways can help federal, state, and local governments with the job of discovering and reporting incidents of water pollution. Your help could lead to rapid clean up of oil spills, provide evidence for enforcing pollution laws, and possibly protect others from harm. This citizens guide has been prepared to provide specific information on how to perform this important community service.

Why We Need Your Help

Although industries and cities have the responsibility of controlling and monitoring their legal discharges to rivers and stream there are times that accidents occur. There are times when loads of oil and chemicals are dumped into storm sewers or illegally discharged directly to waterways. When you see someone dumping something into a sewer, something unusual being discharged from a pipe or when you see unusual substances in or floating on the water, we ask you to report what you see to an appropriate government agency.

CONTACTS

Agency	Phone Number
U.S. Coast Guard national Response Center	1.800.424.8802
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Emergency Alert System	1.800.292.4706
Wayne County Department of the Environment Hotline	1.888.223.2363
City of Detroit	1.800.223.2363
Local Police and Fire Departments (in case of fire or explosion)	911
The Detroit Riverkeeper	1.734.676.4626

GET A POLLUTION REPORTING FORM
AT
WWW.DETROITRIVER.ORG

What You Should Look For

You should look for anything that looks unusual and unnatural. Some things are more obvious than others and the amount or extent of the problem may vary. Here is a list of things to look for and report:

OIL SLICKS

FLOATING DEBRIS

DEAD FISH AND BIRDS

**UNUSUAL TURBIDITY
OR DISCOLORATION**

