

## Property Owner Responsibility

The property owner is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the portion of the private storm drain or pipe on your property functions properly
- Repairing broken or collapsed portions of the private storm drain or pipe on your property

## Stormwater Management Utility (SMU) Responsibility

The Stormwater Management Utility (SMU) is responsible for:

- Repairing broken or collapsed portions of all storm pipes in the public right-of-way
- Keeping public storm drains free of blockages

# A Guide to Your Storm Drain and Pipes



Stormwater Management Utility  
4747 Spring Grove Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45232

513-591-5050  
[www.mycincySMU.org](http://www.mycincySMU.org)

# How Can You Help?

## Professional Services

Have a professional plumber inspect and clean your storm pipe and drain.

## Keep Roots Out

Plants and trees seeking water can grow their roots into the pipes and cause blockages or pipe damage. When planting new trees or shrubs, try to not plant over or near storm drain or pipes.



## Keep Your Gutters Clean

Downspouts are sometimes tied directly into the storm pipe. Leaves and twigs from gutters can go through downspouts and get into the pipes, which can cause blockages. Clean your gutters periodically to prevent this.

## Properly Dispose Your Yard Waste

Do not dispose of your yard waste in the street. That will cause the stormwater inlets to clog and cause flooding.

## Call Us

If you see debris in the street, call the City's Department of Public Services at **591-6000**. If you see a blocked stormwater inlet, call the Stormwater Management Utility at **591-5050**.

# Storm Drain and Pipes FAQs

## 1. What causes blockages or breaks in a storm drain or pipe?

Clogs are caused by materials that don't dissolve in water and partly or completely block the pipe, such as:

- Tree roots that grow into the pipe.
- Debris that enters through an inlet.

Broken storm pipes can be caused by deterioration from age, tree roots, or external stresses (such as ground shifting or settlement).

## 2. How do I know if there's a problem with my storm drain?

If the drains on your property will not take the storm water, it may be clogged or there

may be a collapsed area blocking the flow. If your yard drain has settled or you continue to fill in a settled area that is near your storm pipe, soil may be feeding into the pipe.

## 3. How do I fix a clogged or damaged building sewer?

You should call a professional plumber to fix your blocked or broken storm pipe. For clogged pipes, the plumber will remove the blockage. A broken or collapsed pipe will require digging up and replacing portions of the pipe.

