



Adopt-a-Catch Basin Safety Guide

Thank you for helping keep Ottawa's stormwater system clean and flowing!

Your safety is our top priority. Please review and follow these guidelines while participating in the program.

Choose a Safe Location

- Select a catch basin on a quiet, low-traffic street. Avoid busy roads, intersections, or areas with fast-moving vehicles.
- Stay on sidewalks or boulevards when working. Never step into traffic lanes.
- Do not adopt catch basins on major roads or other high-volume streets.
- Always stay alert and aware of traffic.
- Cross roadways at designated crossing areas.
- Children and youth participants must be supervised by an adult at all times.

When to Clean

- Only clean during daylight hours. Avoid working in low visibility or after dark.
- Check your catch basin at least twice a month, especially before and after heavy rain, snow, and windy days during the fall to clear leaves and small branches.
- Be aware of the weather while clearing catch basins. Do not clear basins during inclement weather.

What to Wear

- Bright or reflective clothing to increase visibility.
- Sturdy footwear with a good grip, especially in wet or icy conditions.
- Gloves to protect your hands from debris or sharp objects.
- Eye protection to protect eyes from blowing debris or when removing ice.
- Weather appropriate clothing.

Cleaning Tips

- Clear only surface debris like leaves, trash, snow, or ice.
- Do not attempt to lift or remove the grate.
- Use a well-built shovel, broom or rake if needed. Avoid using your hands directly.
- Dispose of yard waste in your green bin or check the [Waste Explorer](#) to learn how to properly dispose of non-organic materials.
- Stretch and warm up before clearing your catch basin, lift with your legs, take frequent breaks and hydrate well afterwards.

Reporting Issues: Call **3-1-1** to report:

- Standing water
- Damage to the catch basin
- Blockages below the grate

- Hazardous objects or materials
- Deceased wildlife

Recording Your Efforts

- Take a photo of your cleaned catch basin.
- Email your photo to IWSDOutreach@ottawa.ca.
- All participants will receive a certificate. Students who wish to have community service hours validated must submit the appropriate forms for signature to IWSDOutreach@ottawa.ca.

Thank You!

Your efforts help prevent flooding, protect our waterways, and build a stronger community. Stay safe and thank you for being a hometown hero!