Clear Debris from Nearby Storm Drains

Overview

- When street storm drains/sewers become clogged with leaves, dirt, trash, or other debris, they cannot drain properly and may cause localized flooding.
- Pooling water at the foot of the structure could lead to foundation damage and/or flooding in the basement, crawlspace, or even the ground floor.
- Clearing nearby storm drains/sewers will help ensure that stormwater flowing from a structure's roof and surrounding property will not pool on the property.
- Additionally, clearing storm drains/sewers will help reduce flooding on the roads surrounding the property.
- Storm drains/sewers should be checked for debris regularly but especially in the fall once the trees start losing their leaves. Additionally, check storm drains/sewers before and after precipitation events.
- Dispose of the leaves in yard waste bags. Dispose of any trash in trash cans.
- Try to prevent leaves and other debris on your property from washing towards the storm drains.
- In addition to keeping storm drain/sewers clear, complete the following in order to help prevent flooding on the property:
  - Make sure that the yard is graded properly.
  - Frequently clear roof gutters of debris.
  - Consider installing a rain garden or stormwater planter to absorb excess stormwater runoff.
  - Ensure that the downspouts do not flow onto impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, or roads.



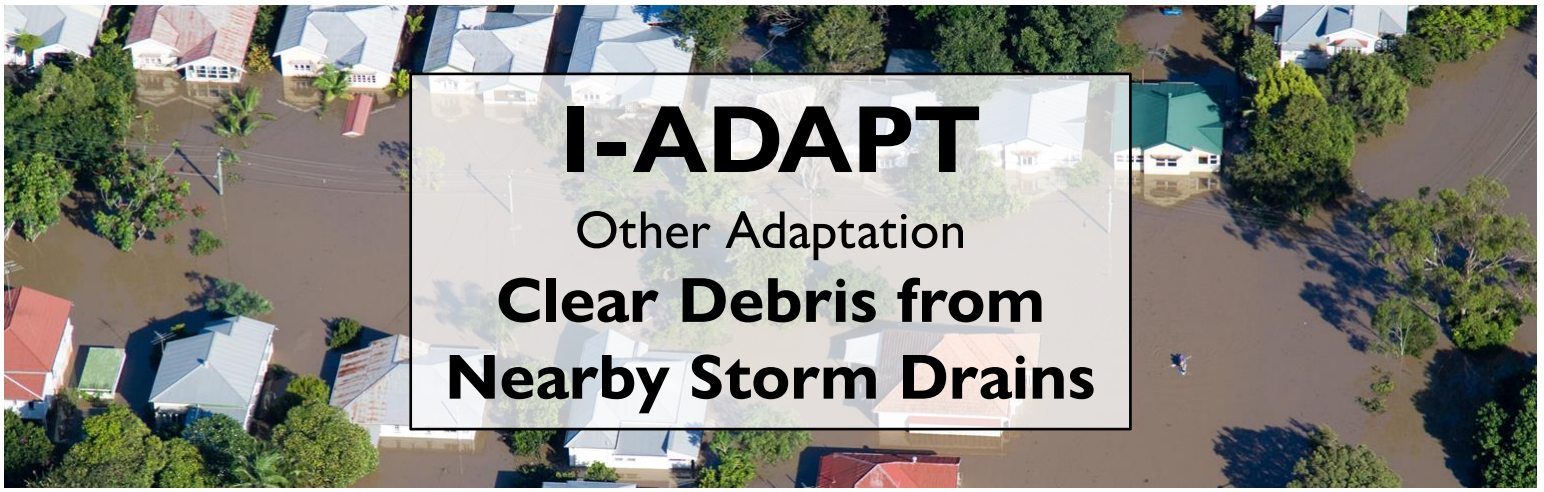
Key Takeaways

During storm events, water may pool in yards or even flood structures if local street storm drains/sewers are clogged with debris.

Flooding can cause extensive damage to the interior and exterior of structures (e.g. foundation damage). Additionally, pools of water can damage landscaping and provide breeding grounds for pests such as mosquitos.

To help avoid flood damage costs associated with clogged storm drains/sewers, frequently clear local storm drain/sewers of any debris.





I-ADAPT

Other Adaptation

Clear Debris from Nearby Storm Drains

Estimated Costs/Benefits

*U.S. dollars (2022), estimates are subject to change

Potential Costs		Potential Benefits		
Item	*Estimate*	*Post-Flood Recovery Actions*	*Estimate*	
Trash bags	$5-$30	Flood damage recovery (professional clean-up, mold removal, replacement/ repair of flood damaged items)	1 inch water ↓ 1 foot water	$10,800-$53,500+ ↓ $29,400-$143,500+
Yard waste bags	$3-$15	Remove standing water	$1,300-$13,500	
		Mosquito control	$400-$600 per treatment	
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	**$8-$45**	**ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS**	**$12,500-$157,600+**	

Additional Resources

- FEMA Reducing Damage from Localized Flooding
- Keeping Leaves Out of Storm Drains

Resources can also be found at https://de.gov/iadapt

Expected Maintenance

- Periodically check drains/sewers for clogging.

Additional Actions

- Ensure that the lawn is graded for stormwater to flow away from the structure.
- Periodically check downspouts and roof gutters for clogging and flow.
- Consider installing a rain garden or stormwater planter to catch excess stormwater.

Permitting Agencies

Contacts for permitting requirements include but are not limited to the following:

- Your city and/or county government for local flood ordinances or regulations
- Your city and/or county government for building permits

Who to Contact

- Storm drain professionals

Technical definitions and more information are located on the I-ADAPT website: https://de.gov/iadapt.

This information is intended to be used for planning purposes. It is not intended to substitute or take precedence over the guidance of design engineers, contractors, utility companies or regulatory agencies.

For more information, contact DNREC's Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy at DNREC_IADAPT@Delaware.gov