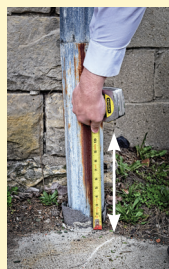


## Three easy ways DELCORA Customers help prevent overflows:

**1 Please check your downspouts and foundation drains** to make sure they are not connected to the sanitary sewer. These outdated connections, which are common in older homes, add excess water to the system during wet weather. It is also important to make any needed repairs on your home sewer line.



Measure and cut the downspout 10 inches above the ground with a saw.



Attach a downspout extender and direct it to the lawn and away from the foundations.

**2 Please dispose of grease properly** to avoid blockages in city and homeowner sewers, which can cause overflows in waterways and basement backups. Do not pour grease into sinks or other drains. After it cools place grease in the trash in a sealed container such as a coffee can.



**3 Discard disposable wipes in your trash.** Some do not dissolve or break down and may stop up city and homeowner sewers.



## Should residents report a suspected sewer backup?

Yes. Please report any suspected overflows or basement backups by contacting the DELCORA sewer emergency line at 610-876-5523 (Press 1)



## Who should I contact with general questions and concerns?

If you have questions about CSOs or wish to report missing, damaged, or vandalized signs and equipment, please contact DELCORA Customer service at 610-876-5526 or by using the Contact Us form on the DELCORA.org website.



**Administration Building**  
100 East Fifth Street  
Chester, PA 19013

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**  
3201 West Front Street  
Chester, PA 19016

COMBINED  
SEWER  
OVERFLOWS



Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority

DELCORA



# WHAT ARE CSOs?

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are discharges of wastewater and stormwater from the combined sewer system that serves the City of Chester. Sewer overflows can occur at various discharge points along waterways when volume temporarily exceeds pipe capacity during and immediately following storm events.

## Why do overflows exist?

These overflow points were designed many years ago when the sewer collection system was first developed. In those days this type of system was considered state of the art, but since then we have developed better ways to manage stormwater. Some of these more modern techniques are being implemented in Chester today.

## Are overflows an issue in other US cities?

Yes. Solving wet-weather issues is the biggest challenge facing most sewer districts today.

## What is DELCORA doing about overflows?

DELCORA has been investing in the combined sewer system to improve how much combined sewage gets to the treatment plant during wet weather. The Long Term Control Plan, which addresses efforts by DELCORA to improve water quality of our local creeks by treating or eliminating overflows, is currently being revised to include the latest technologies to combat the CSO issue



## How will residents benefit?

Solving overflows will improve recreational and economic opportunities by improving water quality in the waterways around the City of Chester.

## Where are the overflow points located?

Discharge locations that may activate during wet weather are along Chester and Ridley Creeks and along the Delaware River within the City of Chester. A total of 25 combined sewer overflow outfalls are marked by signage. For more information on the combined sewer system, visit [www.delcora.org/combined-sewer-systems](http://www.delcora.org/combined-sewer-systems).

## How do I know the location of an overflow?

The frequency and volume depend on the amount of precipitation received, but a typical year may have 50 or more overflows.

## If I see an overflow sign, is it safe to swim near it?

Signs are posted at each outfall location within the City of Chester and notify the reader that the waterbody is a combined sewer overflow area and states " DANGER: During or after rainstorms, this waterway might contain sewage or pathogens that might cause illness. Please avoid swimming or other water contact". In addition, a phone number to contact DELCORA is provided on every sign.

