

Storm Drains

The next set of questions examined the respondent's knowledge of materials that are acceptable to be placed in storm drains (Table 61). Rainwater is the only acceptable material that can enter storm drains. The items the respondents deemed most acceptable for the storm drains were rainwater from a home's gutters (68.6%), water from draining a swimming pool (17.6%), and grass clippings, leaves, and other natural vegetation (8.2%). Again, since only rainwater from a home's gutters would be correct, there is some degree of inaccuracy in the respondent's perceptions. There has been a degree of improvement in water from a swimming pool (28.1% to 17.6%). However, there was slightly more inaccuracy for grass clippings, leaves, and other natural vegetation (8.2% to 6.5%). Grease and oil (0.2%) and paint (0.2%) remain accurately perceived as unacceptable materials. Tables 62 and 63 show the results from 2006 and 2004.

Overall, public knowledge of what is acceptable to go into storm drains improved again this year. The only area of concern is the slightly higher percentages (8.2%) for grass clippings, leaves, and other natural vegetation.

Table 61. Acceptable Materials for Storm Drains - 2008.

Materials	% Yes	% No	% Not Sure
Rainwater from a home's gutters	68.6	25.5	5.9
Water from draining a swimming pool	17.6	68.7	13.6
Grass clippings, leaves, and other natural vegetation	8.2	86.9	5.0
Grease and oil	0.2	98.3	1.5
Paint	0.2	98.3	1.5

Table 62. Acceptable Materials for Storm Drains - 2006.

Materials	% Yes	% No	% Not Sure
Rainwater from a home's gutters	87.6	9.5	3.0
Runoff from sprinklers and irrigation systems	68.1	23.7	8.2
Rinse water from washing a car	49.6	39.4	11.0
Water from draining a swimming pool	28.1	55.5	16.4
Grass clippings, leaves, and other natural vegetation	6.5	89.6	4.0
Grease and oil	1.2	97.5	1.2
Paint	1.0	98.0	1.0

Table 63. Acceptable Materials for Storm Drains - 2004.

Materials	% Yes	% No	% Not Sure
Rainwater from a home's gutters	88.7	8.0	3.4
Runoff from sprinklers and irrigation systems	84.5	11.7	3.9
Rinse water from washing a car	63.1	25.3	11.6
Water from draining a swimming pool	28.1	55.7	16.2
Grass clippings, leaves, and other natural vegetation	17.5	74.0	8.5
Grease and oil	0.8	98.5	0.8
Paint	0.3	99.0	0.8

Storm Drains Crosstabulations

The crosstabulations for acceptable materials to put in storm drains were conducted for housing type, language, and years in Cary (Tables B357-B359). Townhouse/condo dwellers (20.0%) and apartment dwellers (16.1%) were the most inaccurate for grass, leaves, and natural vegetation. The 0-1 year Cary residents (23.1%) and apartment dwellers (22.6%) were the least accurate for water from a swimming pool. However, the accuracy for grease, oil, and paints were very good for all the subgroups.