

Criteria to Dispose Substances in Sanitary Drains

Revision: December 16, 2025

All discharges must comply with the requirements and limits established in the Ann Arbor Sewer Use Ordinance including, but not limited to:

- No RCRA Hazardous Wastes
- No Michigan Hazardous Wastes or Liquid Industrial By-Products
- No Radioactive Wastes
- No Biohazardous Wastes
- Liquids Only

All Discharges Must Comply with the Limits Established in the Ann Arbor Sewer Use Ordinance

See City of Ann Arbor - City Code, [Chapter 28](#) including, but not limited to the following:

General Waste

Pollutant and Criteria
Ammonia, as nitrogen - Maximum of 40 mg/l. If >25 mg/l, subject to surcharge fee.
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) - Maximum of 1000 mg/l. If >230 mg/l, subject to surcharge fee.
Cyanide - Maximum of 1.0 mg/l.
Fats, oil and grease - Maximum of 100 mg/l.
Flashpoint - must be 140° F, or greater.
Petroleum oil or grease, nonbiodegradable cutting oil, mineral oil - Discharges of oils or grease are prohibited.
pH - must be between 5-10 standard units.
Phosphorus, total - Maximum of 20 mg/l. If >4.9 mg/l, subject to surcharge fee.
Specific Gravity - must not exceed 2.65.
Suspended solids, total - Maximum (TSS) of 1000 mg/l. If >150 mg/l, subject to surcharge fee.



Total Dissolved Metal limits

- Arsenic
 - Maximum concentration of 1.6 mg/l.
- Cadmium
 - Maximum concentration of 1.0 mg/l.
- Chromium
 - Maximum concentration of 4.0 mg/l
- Copper
 - Maximum concentration of 4.0 mg/l.
- Lead
 - Maximum concentration of 0.5 mg/l.
- Mercury
 - Maximum concentration of 0.0002 mg/l.
- Molybdenum
 - Maximum concentration of 3.7 mg/l.
- Nickel
 - Maximum concentration of 3.0 mg/l.
- Selenium
 - Maximum concentration of 1.1 mg/l.
- Silver
 - Maximum concentration of 0.24 mg/l.
- Zinc
 - Maximum concentration of 3.0 mg/l.

Liquids Only

No:

- Solids
- Sludges
- Viscous material
- Insoluble substances:
 - Retained by No. 8 sieve
 - Greater than ½ inch (1.27 cm)

No RCRA Hazardous Wastes

Examples include

- Corrosives (pH less than 2 or greater than 12.5)
- Flammables (flash point less than 140° F)
- Oxidizers (e.g., perchloric acid, chromic acid, concentrated hydrogen peroxide, etc.)
- Metal-containing wastes
- Reactive wastes (cyanide or sulfide, etc.)
- Solvents (halogenated and non-halogenated)



- Unused and/or outdated chemicals ([P-Codes](#) and [U-Codes](#))

References:

- [Characteristic \(D-codes\) & Listed Wastes \(E,K, P and U-codes\)](#)
- [Chemical Waste](#)

No Michigan Hazardous Wastes or Liquid Industrial By-Products

References:

- Michigan's Hazardous Waste information: MI Act 451 [Part 111](#) and [Part 111 Administrative Rules](#)
- Liquid Industrial By-Products: MI Act 451 [Part 121](#)
- Managing the waste stream: [Chemical Waste](#)

No Radioactive Wastes

References: Managing the waste stream: [Radioactive Waste](#)

No Biohazardous Wastes

References: Managing the waste stream: [Biohazardous Waste](#)