



COMBINED SEWERS VS. SEPARATE SEWERS

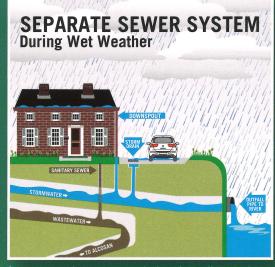
ALCOSAN Service Area: 309 sq. mi.

Approximately
52.5 sq.
served by combined sewer systems

Approximately
160.6 sq.
served by separate sewer systems



Combined sewer systems are designed to collect stormwater, sanitary sewage and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. In dry weather, combined sewer systems transport this flow to ALCOSAN for treatment. During heavy rain or snow melt, however, the wastewater volume is too great and the excess flows into our local waterways. These are called Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).



Separate sewer systems are designed to collect sanitary sewage and stormwater in two parallel pipes. These separate pipes allow sanitary sewage to be conveyed to ALCOSAN for treatment, while stormwater is discharged to local rivers and streams without requiring treatment. Overflows from separate sewer systems, which are illegal, are called Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs).