

**Report to our  
Stormwater Hotline  
704-282-4515**

If you suspect an illicit discharge or stormwater pollution, call our hotline. Reporting issues immediately can prevent further contamination.

**What do I say when I call?**

1. Location of the incident.
2. Date and time you witnessed the incident.
3. General description of the incident and materials involved (if known). Do not touch or move any materials.
4. Pictures if possible.
5. Your name and contact information if you would like staff to follow up with you.



To report a suspected illicit discharge or stormwater pollution please call the Stormwater Hotline at

**704-282-4515**



For more information on stormwater runoff and pollution prevention visit our website at  
[www.monroenc.org/stormwater](http://www.monroenc.org/stormwater)



# **Illicit Discharge**



## **What is an illicit discharge?**

An illicit discharge is the release of pollutants or non-stormwater materials to the stormwater system. Illicit discharges contribute high levels of pollutants including heavy metals, toxins, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria that flow directly into receiving creeks, streams, rivers and lakes.

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

When it rains, water can either soak into the ground, in grass and landscaped areas or run off impervious surfaces such as our streets, parking lots, sidewalks and roofs. Stormwater runoff is the water that flows over ground surface areas **picking up any pollutants in its path** as the runoff flows into our stormwater drainage system.

## What makes up the Storm Drain System?

This system is referred to as a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). By definition, an MS4 is a system of conveyances that includes;

- Catch basins
- Drop inlets
- Curb inlets
- Drainage ditches
- Headwalls
- Pipes
- Outfalls

The MS4 **discharges directly into creeks, streams, rivers and lakes without treatment**. Stormwater conveyances reduce localized flooding.



Illicit discharges can enter the system through either direct connections or indirect inputs.

Wastewater connections, whether intentional or inadvertent, should never be plumbed to the stormwater drainage system, but sent to the wastewater treatment plant where it can be treated before the water is released into the environment.

## Examples of Illicit Discharges

- Trash & litter
- Motor oil & auto fluids
- Cooking oil & grease
- Cleaners & soaps
- Wash water; mop buckets, car washing & power washing
- Pool chemicals & pool discharges that are not fully de-chlorinated
- Paint & paint remover
- Yard waste; grass clippings & leaves
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Pet waste
- Dumpster leakage
- Construction materials; cement dust & concrete washout



## Sources

- Illegal dumping of any of the examples listed above anywhere outside where the material can be picked up by runoff during storms
- Spills of any of the examples listed above
- Cracked sanitary systems or septic systems
- Mobile car washes and pressure washing services that do not collect and treat wash water before proper disposal.



## What to look for!

- Suds, odors, or discolorations in surface waters.
- Deliberate dumping of substances such as paint, used oil or concrete. It's rare to see someone actively dumping, but residue or staining on top or around a stormwater conveyance is a good indicator.
- Staining near unsecured containers stored outside, especially those without protection from weather and precipitation.

## How can you help?

- **Prevent spills** when working outdoors by placing drip pans, or drop cloths before you start.
- Clean up spills by **dry methods**, such as sweeping, or apply absorbents and then sweep them up. Avoid washing spills with water.
- Store chemicals, cleaners, auto fluids, paint supplies and other similar materials **indoors or under cover in leak-proof containers**.
- Properly dispose of unused chemicals, cleaners and other household hazardous wastes (HHWs). **Check the label** for care directions.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, **always follow the directions for proper application**.
- Never blow or rake yard waste into drainage structures including ditches or directly into waterways. Properly **prepare it for collection or start a compost pile**.
- Don't dump your mop bucket or other wash water outside and wash equipment indoors when possible.
- **Volunteer with us!** You can mark storm drains with "no dumping" to educate others.