

What can you do to prevent illicit discharges?

To prevent illicit discharges to the stormwater system and to protect water quality, keep in mind the following rules:

1. Never dump anything in a storm drain or into a drainage ditch.
2. Clean up after your pet. Pet waste is a significant source of pathogens.
3. Throw litter in its proper place. If you see garbage near a storm drain, pick it up.
4. Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes at designated locations.
5. Regularly check your vehicles for leaks (and repair them).
6. Compost yard wastes
7. Recycle motor oil and other automotive fluids. These items may be taken to the Central Transfer Station.
8. Use fertilizers and pesticides only when needed, and always follow the label instructions.
9. Wash vehicles in the yard, not on pavement. Better yet, take your car to a carwash, where all wastewater flows into the sanitary sewer system for treatment.
10. Report illegal dumping immediately.



What should you do if you find a suspected illicit discharge?

If you witness or think an illicit discharge is taking or has taken place, please contact EH&S (561-297-3129) or the University Police at 561-297-3500. You may also report it through the EH&S Website at fau.edu/ehs or by sending an email to ehs@fau.edu. A quick response may prevent serious damages.



What information you should report?

Report any wastewater or other polluting material that you see being discharged into a street, alley or storm drain, or from a construction site. If you see a violation occurring, call us and provide the following information:

- Location of the discharge (physical address or directions to the location)
- What you observed and the date and time
- Identifying names, marks or numbers on the vehicle or facility

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What are Illicit Discharges and how can YOU prevent them?



What is an Illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is any discharge into the City's storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater or uncontaminated groundwater. Such discharges are considered "illicit" because the storm sewer system is not designed to accept, process, or discharge such non-stormwater wastes of contaminants. Illicit discharges include dumping of motor vehicle fluids, hazardous waste (industrial or household), paint, grass clippings, leaf litter, or animal waste. The illicit discharge may be a deliberate discharge, or runoff from a construction site. It must be stopped in order to ensure that our stormwater discharges do not pollute waters of the state.



What are Illicit discharge Signs?

- Unusual watercolor, oily sheen, foam, suds, turbidity
- Smell or fumes
- Discarded drums or other containers and materials
- Brown or dead plants around an outfall
- Sick or dead animals around an outfall
- Personal symptoms (burning eyes, nose or skin, nausea or headache)

Illicit Discharge Examples

Examples of illicit Discharges	What's the Problem?
Improper storm-sanitary sewer connection	A sanitary sewer line is mistakenly connected to the storm sewer system, sending domestic household waste, wash water, and other wastewater directly to a river. Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines, and floor drains and take it to a sewage treatment plant. Storm drains flow directly into local waterways and do not receive treatment for pollutant removal. Physical connections between sanitary and storm sewers result in the discharge of raw sewage, chemicals, and other pollutants into surface waters.
Intentional dumping	Each night, the busboy at a local restaurant dumps his bucket of dirty mop water on the pavement behind the building, where it flows into a stormwater catch basin, and eventually into a small stream. The dirty mop bucket contains detergents, food waste, and other pollutants that degrade aquatic habitat and harm stream organisms. Such waste should be directed to the sanitary sewer system so it can be treated.
Accidental Spill	A diesel storage tank at a gas station leaks and overflows into the storm drain system. Automotive chemicals such as diesel fuel are highly toxic to aquatic wildlife and humans. A small amount of these chemicals can contaminate thousands of gallons of water. Such materials should be recycled or disposed of properly.
Construction Site	A construction site may not properly manage stormwater to prevent runoff to streams and canals. The resulting contribution of sediments and other pollutants from construction sites can cause physical, chemical, and biological harm to our waters.

What are Illicit Discharge Exemptions?

The following discharges into the City's storm sewer systems are considered exemptions:

- a) Discharges which have obtained appropriate Federal, State and local permits and are in compliance with the conditions of these permits.
- b) Discharges from:
 - Water line flushing
 - Flushing of reclaimed water lines
 - Street cleaning
 - Construction dust control
 - Landscape irrigation
 - Diverted stream flows
 - Rising ground waters
 - Foundation and footing drains
 - Swimming pool discharges
 - Uncontaminated ground water infiltration (as defined at 40 C.F.R. 35.205(20))
 - Uncontaminated pumped ground water
 - Discharges from potable water sources
 - Air conditioning condensate
 - Irrigation water
 - Springs
 - Lawn watering
 - Individual residential car washing
 - Flows from riparian habitat and wetlands;
 - Discharges or flows from emergency firefighting activities and emergency response activities done in accordance with an adopted spill response/action plan.

