

# Fact Sheet

## Sources of illicit discharges

**Liquid wastes** such as oil, paint, process water (radiator flushing), household items, and discharge from chlorinated swimming pools that enter the storm drain system.



### What Is An "Illicit Discharge"?

*Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as "...any discharge to a stormwater system that is not composed entirely of stormwater..."with some exceptions. These exceptions include discharges from permitted industrial sources and discharges from fire-fighting activities. Illicit discharges are considered "illicit" because stormwater systems are not designed to accept, process, or discharge non-stormwater waste.*

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**Report Spills** Any Sheen on the ground or water surface is an indication of an illicit discharge of a petroleum product. Gas and oil enter the bay by storm water runoff and illegal dumping. You can help by not topping off when you fill up your tank, keeping your vehicle maintained, and properly recycling used motor oil.

### Report Sewage and septic tank overflows.

Sewage can pollute the waterways from septic tank overflow pipes or improperly disposed of porta potty waste. Sewage pollution is recognizable based on its distinct odor.





### Pollution Prevention/Good House Keeping

- Prevent Pollution to the storm water system by ensuring all waste containers are placed on pallets or concrete slabs.
- Waste receptacles should not be damaged and should function properly so there are no leaks or indirect discharges.
- Any liquid or sold waste should be placed inside containers and no gross material left exposed on the surface of container susceptible to enter the storm water system.



Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep pollutants from entering the storm drain such as:

- Fix auto leaks promptly
- Clean up spills immediately using absorbents
- Never Dump anything down a storm drain

### Report Dry Weather Flow

If a storm drain has flow when it has not rained for at least 72 hours, or if it shows signs of staining odor or discoloration an illicit discharge or illegal dumping may be present.

### Report Detergents

Detergents used for cleaning vehicles become an illicit discharge when they enter the storm drain. Soaps that contain phosphates promote algae growth when they reach the waterways, which robs the water of essential oxygen. Without oxygen fish cannot survive.

**Solid waste:** such as trash, leaves, yard debris, sediment, and pet waste should not be placed in swales, ponds or in the direct path of any storm water system. Storm water systems can become impaired with debris obstructions and polluted with pet waste.



**You can help stop illicit discharges by looking for the warning signs and reporting the problem to York County  
Dept of Public Works  
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