

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4)
STORM WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET 1
PLEASE REPORT ILLICIT DISCHARGES

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Compiled By:

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Prevent water pollution in our community

As reported in previous newsletters, our stormwater quality program is an opportunity for the citizens of Cold Spring to participate in a greener community, cleaner water and a better quality of life. If you see pollution please call the stormwater hotline at 859.441.6863. As part of the City storm water quality permit regulations, we are required to report and Illicit Discharges that occur anywhere in the City. Therefore:

Please Report Illicit Discharges

If you see an illicit discharge please call the stormwater hotline at 859.441.6863 to report the illicit discharge or any type of water pollution in our creeks and streams, or if you see pollution in the city stormwater system infrastructure such as in the catch basins and inlets. In case of emergencies, call 911.

What is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is an unlawful act of disposing, dumping, spilling, emitting, or other discharge of any substance other than stormwater into the stormwater drainage system. The stormwater drainage system includes streets, ditches, catch basins, yard inlets, lakes, and streams. Below are some helpful hints that will avoid creating illicit discharges:

- ◆ Have your septic tank pumped and septic system inspected regularly
- ◆ Pick up after your pet. Do not let your pet waste wash into any of the drainage system and do not dump the pet waste into any unauthorized areas of the City
- ◆ Do not dump paint into or near the storm drainage system
- ◆ Check your vehicles for leaks and do not dump motor oil or antifreeze into or near a stormwater structure
- ◆ Do not dump any waste into or near the stormwater drainage system
- ◆ Do not wash your vehicle where the runoff could drain into the storm drainage system
- ◆ Plant grass plants or vegetation on the bare spots of your lawn
- ◆ Minimize pesticides and learn more about BMP's (best management practices) that will be topics of future stormwater articles
- ◆ When possible compost yard wastes and leaves and grass clippings. Do not dump them into the local ditches, creeks, streams and river waterways
- ◆ Direct your downspouts onto the lawns and away from paved surfaces
- ◆ Follow directions on fertilizer labels and sweep off driveways sidewalks and roads so that the chemicals won't get into the stormwater drainage system

Illicit discharges cause water pollution by sending pollutants right into creeks, streams, ponds, and rivers. Be sure you know what illicit discharges are so you can help prevent water pollution and keep our streams clean!

What information should be reported when calling in an illicit discharge to the Stormwater hotline?

1. What time did you see the discharge?

It is important that illicit discharges are reported immediately so the person(s) responsible can be found and the discharge can be cleaned up and corrected as soon as possible. We want to respond as quickly as possible to prevent pollution to our environment.

2. Where did you see the discharge?

Please give us an address, intersection, business name, or landmark to help us quickly find the illicit discharge.

3. What do you think the discharge is?

Please let us know if you think it was a paint spill, oil spill, sewer leak, or another type of illicit discharge.

4. Was there a business involved?

Please tell us the name of the business involved to help us eliminate the discharge as quickly as possible and provide enforcement action when needed.

Is yard waste considered an illicit discharge?

Large amounts of yard waste can actually become harmful to our streams and creeks. Dumping yard waste into the storm drainage system can be considered a violation of Cold Spring's Illicit Discharge Ordinance.

Where can used motor oil be thrown away?

When residents change their motor oil and perform other maintenance on their vehicles, none of that waste should be dumped into a storm drain because that is an illicit discharge and causes water pollution. Used motor oil can be taken to any auto parts store and their staff will take care of the used motor oil for you. The auto parts stores can accept motor oil in containers holding up to five gallons of motor oil.

Is trash in the creek considered an illicit discharge?

Large amounts of debris (such as construction waste) or individual items (such as furniture, washing machines, and refrigerators) can be considered an illicit discharge if they are degrading water quality and creating a harmful effect on the environment. These types of illicit discharges can only be enforced if the person(s) responsible for the illegal dumping can be found.

Are there some things that are exempt from the illicit discharge violations? Yes

- Water line flushing or other potable water sources
- Landscape irrigation or lawn watering
- Diverted stream flows
- Riding ground water
- Ground water infiltration to storm drains
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water
- Foundation or footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems)
- Crawl space pumps
- Springs
- Air conditioning condensate
- Firefighting activities
- Nonprofit or non-commercial car washing, including charity car washes and residential car washing
- Natural riparian habitat or wetland flows
- Swimming pools (if Dechlorinated – typically less than one PPM chlorine)
- Groundwater discharges from sump pumps
- Street wash water from municipal cleaning operations
- Any other water source not contained pollutants

What is an illicit connection?

An illicit connection is an unlawful connection from the sanitary sewer system into the stormwater drainage system or directly into lakes and streams. Below are some examples of Illicit Connections:

- Floor drains from inside a building going into the storm drain system instead of the sanitary sewer system
- Providing a washing machine connection into a ditch or storm drain structure instead of the sanitary sewer system
- Installing a new plumbing line from a toilet into a stormwater drainage structure instead of the sanitary sewer system

Are there any penalties for violators?

The City approved an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) ordinance in 2014 that provides City Officials the authority to issue Notices of Violation to offenders and fines that can be issued depending on the severity of the violation. The City can issue fines, or civil penalties, up to \$1,000 per day and these fines can continue for each day the illicit discharge remains active. Any person that continues to violate the IDDE ordinance and program may be referred for criminal prosecution subject to criminal penalties of \$1,000 per violation and/or imprisonment for a period of time not to exceed thirty (30) days.