

## What is an illicit discharge?

Any discharge to a storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater. Storm sewers are not designed to accept, process, or discharge non-stormwater wastes such as fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, yard debris, oil or grease from a car, etc.

Storm sewers collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to streams and rivers. Sanitary sewers collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to wastewater treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system through either direct or indirect connections (e.g. infiltration into the system from cracked sanitary systems, improperly maintained septic systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain).

The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving waterbodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in many studies to be high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

If you see signs of illicit discharge in your neighborhood, please do not keep it to yourself! Preserving our environment is up to you! Contact the Goshen Department of Stormwater to report incidents at 574-534-2201.

### For more information...

...or if you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact:

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# IDDE: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination



## Preventing illicit discharges



## How to spot an illicit discharge

- Look for unnatural colors in water flowing into and out of storm drains
- An odor coming from waters flowing into and out of storm drains
- Suds or foam in a waterway associated with odors or debris
- Sanitary debris
- Discoloration on pipes or drain grates
- Overgrown or wet patch of grass, especially in lawns, as it could be a sanitary sewer leak



## What are allowable discharges?

- Landscape irrigation and lawn watering
- Uncontaminated ground water
- Residential air conditioning condensate
- Discharges from potable water sources
- Foundation and footing drains (must not have any sanitary connections such as washing machines, sinks, showers, and basement floor drains)
- Individual residential car washing (for car washing residents are strongly encouraged to park their vehicle in a grassy area to minimize the wash water from entering the stormwater system)
- Dechlorinated swimming pool water (pool must have been open and idle for 7 days before the water can be discharged)