



Washington County

STORMWATER AND WATERSHED SERVICES

Help Protect The Waters of Washington County

An Illicit Discharge Guide for Washington County Businesses & Homeowners

YOU are the solution to **STORMWATER POLLUTION**

Washington County lies within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the largest estuary in the United States. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act requires the use of effective management of stormwater pollution.



Ordinance/Enforcement

Washington County has a Stormwater Ordinance (ORD-2019-15) that makes it illegal to cause or allow illicit discharges to the county's stormwater management system.

The County has implemented an illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) program to identify, monitor, trace and inspect illicit discharges to stormwater drains, ditches, creeks, rivers, etc. The ordinance allows the County to enforce removal and/or remediation of illicit discharges as well as fine owners, operators or responsible parties.

Stormwater Concerns & Illicit Discharges

What is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is defined as any discharge to the stormwater management system that is not composed entirely of stormwater. An illicit discharge can be the result of:

- Runoff collecting pollutants on the way to the storm drains.
- Emptying or dumping of any non-stormwater substances directly into the storm drains.
- An accidental spill or leak of a harmful substance.
- An illicit connection (such as waste water from a bathroom or washing machine) into the stormwater drainage system.

Examples of common illicit discharges

- Sanitary wastewater
- Vehicle fluids
- Household cleaners and chemicals
- Soapy wash water
- Paints
- Dirt, mulch and grass clippings
- Pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers
- Restaurant grease and cooking oil
- Pet waste
- Lawn and yard waste/debris

What is NOT an illicit discharge?

- Water line flushing
- Landscaping irrigation
- Air conditioning condensation
- Lawn watering
- Discharge from firefighting
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges



Did You Know?

Storm drains connect directly to our local streams, creeks and rivers. Unlike the sanitary sewer from our homes and businesses, water flowing into the storm drains is not treated. This means trash, pet waste, motor oil detergents and other pollutants from yards, driveways and parking lots can pollute our local water bodies and degrade water quality, restrict recreational activities such as swimming and fishing and threaten wildlife and human health. Storm drains empty directly into rivers, lakes and streams. Please keep our waters clean!

How Can You Help?

- Do not pour household cleaners, oil, antifreeze, paint, etc. on driveways, streets or into stormdrains/ditches. For more information about the collection of household hazardous waste visit www.washco-md.net.solid-waste-recycling/.
- Do not apply pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers near storm drains and ditches. Use sparingly and follow all label instructions.
- Do not blow leaves, grass clippings and mulch into storm drains. Keep compost away from storm drains.
- Do not store or expose materials to rain that could "wash-off" into storm drains or streets. Clean up any leaks or spills immediately with a broom or use an absorbent material.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash. Check your car for leaks. Pick up pet waste. Have your septic tank inspected and pumped every 3-5 years. Report spills or illegal dumping.

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING & DISCHARGES

How To Report An Illicit Discharge

If you suspect an illegal discharge is being released into the storm sewer system, you can report to the County in the following way(s):



Call the Stormwater Complaint Hotline
(240) 313-2600, M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(240) 313-2669 for after hours



Email the Stormwater Management Team
dwqidde@washco-md.net



Submit a complaint form online
www.washco-md.net/environmentalmanagement

What To Include When Reporting

When reporting an illegal dumping or discharge, it is important to include the following information:



Date and Time of Incident



Location of Discharge or Dumping Incident



Vehicle Description, License Plate/Information of Vehicle (if applicable)



For more information, please scan the QR Code



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