



Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Summer 2009 Issue

FOCUS: Business and Industry - Illicit Discharge

What is "**illicit discharge**"? Why should I be concerned about this issue? What types of penalties could I face for allowing illicit discharge on my site? These are all excellent questions!

Illicit discharge is directly discharging anything that is not entirely composed of stormwater into the storm sewer system or body of water within the town or connecting any structure that carries any liquid other than stormwater to storm sewers or water within the town.

Illicit discharge of pollutants into the storm sewer system has a significant impact on the town's water resources. Pollutants swept into the storm sewer are carried directly to waterways, untreated. Sediment, debris, trash and chemicals can harm or kill plants, animals, and marine life, and can also make humans ill.

Anyone who discharges pollutants into the storm sewer system is violating Article II of Chapter 14 of the Town Code. Fines and penalties may be assessed for each instance a violation occurs.



For information on the stormwater management program, please contact the Department of Public Works, at 703-771-2790 or e-mail publicworks@leesburgva.gov. You may also visit our website at www.leesburgva.gov

Employer Responsibilities

As an employer, it is your responsibility to educate your employees about stormwater pollution prevention and proper discharge practices. Good housekeeping techniques should be discussed with all employees on a regular basis. Employees illegally discharging can cost your business money and time - fines will be levied against the business and activities may be halted until the illicit activity has been stopped.



Common Pollutants from Business and Industrial Sites

This list details some of the pollutants frequently found at business and industrial locations, including construction sites:

- **Paint and stains**
- **Grease and oil from food operations**
- **Soil and sediment from land disturbing activities**
- **Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides**
- **Cleaning chemicals and solvents**
- **Automotive fluids**
- **Dirt, leaves and grass**
- **Trash and debris**



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Preventing Illicit Discharge

Your best approach to avoiding penalties and fines is to educate your employees. Monthly or weekly staff meetings are a great time to discuss proper discharge and good housekeeping techniques. Below are some do's and don'ts for your business:



DO:

- Control leaks and spills - clean up immediately with a broom or use an absorbent material to trap fluids
- Repair vehicles with leaks immediately - dispose of automotive fluids at a proper location
- Dispose of paint and solvents safely
- Use commercial facilities for washing vehicles
- Use chemicals sparingly and only when needed - be sure to follow label precautions and instructions
- Provide proper disposal facilities for your waste
- Secure dumpsters and waste receptacle to prevent trash and debris from being swept into sewers



DON'T:

- Use a hose to spray chemicals, grease, dirt or sediment down the drain
- Dispose of grease or oils into the sewer system
- Wash vehicles in the street, allowing soil and sediment to be washed into drains
- Allow trash and debris to be strewn out of containers
- Sweep grass or leaves into the street where they can be carried into the storm sewer system
- Dump or hose down paint buckets or brushes in the street
- Dump waste water from cleaning into storm drains
- Allow excess concrete or dirt to spill into streets where it can be washed into drains
- Wash paint brushes or trays where they can leak into the storm sewer system

