

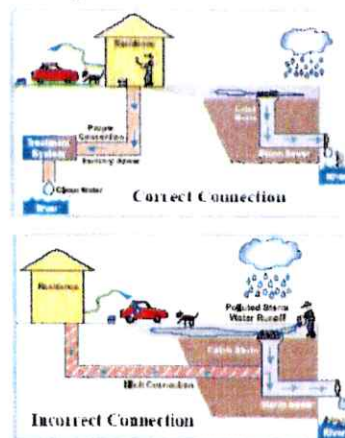
What is an Illicit Discharge?

If you walk alongside almost any urban or suburban stream, you'll see openings of many pipes leading directly into the stream. These pipes carry runoff from streets, parking lots, and rooftops and should only flow during or after a rain storm. However, some of these are flowing during dry weather and may contain sewage, detergents, bacteria laden water, and even toxic chemicals. These are known as "illicit discharges". Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) is the process of finding and fixing these hidden culprits. It's like being a stream detective.

Common Illicit Discharges

- Illegal dumps
- Paint, motor oil and other toxic substances poured into or near the storm drain.
- Broken sanitary sewer lines
- Cross-connections
- Connection of floor drains to storm sewer
- Sanitary sewer over flows
- Washing vehicles where runoff drains into the storm sewer system
- Failing septic systems
- Improper RV waste disposal
- Landscape irrigation

Illicit Connections



Finding and Fixing Illicit Discharges

So how do we go about finding these hidden culprits? It begins with walking our waterways and looking for pipes coming out of the stream banks. Dry weather flows that show algae, benthic growth, sewage fungus, pipe corrosion, odor, have floatables or water discoloration are considered illicit discharge. In some cases, lab testing may be needed to further identify the substance.

Best Management Practices:

- Ordinances prohibiting illicit discharges
- Municipal separate storm sewer maps
- Inspections program
- Public education
- Coordinating with local health dept. to address failing septic systems
- Employee cross-training
- Conduct dry weather flow testing
- Report sanitary sewer over flows



Illicit discharges are highly concentrated and removing them can mean drastic improvements.

What are Illicit Discharges?

Illicit discharges contain sewage, detergents, bacteria laden water, or toxic chemicals. Many citizens may pollute without knowing what they're doing. That's why public education is such an important part of an IDDE program. Helping citizens understand the difference between a storm sewer and a sanitary sewer and encouraging everyday changes means cleaner, safer waters for today and future generations!

Reporting an Illicit Discharge:

If you see something that doesn't look or smell right, it's your responsibility to report it. Call your local government and report the following:

- What time did you see the discharge?
- Where did you see the discharge?
- What do you think the discharge is?
- Was there a business or individual involved?

IDDE is one of the most cost effective practices for finding and stopping water pollution.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

