

Stormwater Pollution

Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen promotes overgrowth of algae and depletes vital dissolved oxygen. Toxic fluids and carelessly applied pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers threaten water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life.



Bacteria from animal wastes and improper sanitary sewer connections to storm sewer systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming, and fish consumption. Eroded soil is a pollutant as well. It clouds the waterway and destroys the habitats of fish and plants.



Millers River Watershed Council

Learn to recognize illicit (unlawful) discharge from stormwater pipes, especially during dry weather. This could be a sign that there is a problem. Report your observations to the local department of public works.



Lake County, Ohio

Additional information can be obtained at the following website pages.

Presidio of Monterey

<https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/about/garrison-directorates/public-works/water-resources>

California Stormwater Program

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater

USEPA Stormwater Program

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>



Macatawa Area Coordinating Council

Report all suspected stormwater discharge violations at the Presidio of Monterey or Ord Military Community

Call (831) 242-7925

Illicit Storm Water Discharges

Identifying & Preventing Stormwater Pollution In Your Neighborhood



Illicit Discharge, Prince William County, Virginia

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

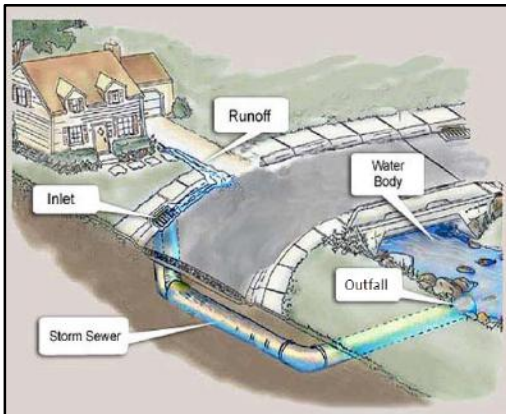
U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey



Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff occurs when excess stormwater flows over the earth's surface. This might occur because rain arrives more quickly than soil can absorb it or because impervious areas (roofs and pavement) send their runoff to surrounding soil that cannot absorb all of it. When runoff flows along the ground, it can pick up soil contaminants such as animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, salt, oil and grease, soil and debris that may become discharge or nonpoint source pollution. Storm sewers and ditches collect stormwater runoff and channels the water and pollution to waterways where they are discharged without treating the pollution.

You can identify a storm sewer, look for open grates along roadways and low-lying areas.



Adapted from Bronx River Alliance

What is an "Illicit Discharge?"

An illicit (unlawful) discharge is any discharge to a municipal storm sewer system; storm drains, pipes, and ditches, that is not entirely stormwater. While nonpoint source pollution ends up in stormwater in a number of ways, many are preventable. Disposal of anything other than stormwater in storm sewers is unlawful.

Storm sewer systems cannot treat polluted water. Stormwater doesn't get carried to the wastewater treatment plant. Storm sewers transport rain water and everything in it directly to surrounding rivers, streams, lakes, and other bodies of water.

Examples of Illicit Discharges

- Unlawful residential and industrial sanitary or waste pipe connections to storm sewer systems
- Septic Tank Seepage
- Laundry Wastewater and Detergent
- Improper Waste Oil Disposal or Auto Fluids Flushing
- Home Improvement Waste (e.g. paint, asbestos, concrete)
- Pesticides and Fertilizers
- Improper Disposal of Commercial and Industrial Hazardous Waste
- Pool and Spa Discharge
- Cooking Grease and Household Waste

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Solid Waste Institute of Northeast Oklahoma

Signs of an Illicit Discharge

The point in a storm sewer system where it empties into a body of water is a storm sewer outfall. It may be a pipe or ditch. If the outfall is flowing when there has been no recent rainfall, this may indicate an illicit discharge. Visible sewage waste, foul odor, suds or other evidence of contamination, are indicators that an illicit discharge is contaminating the storm sewer.



City of Portage, Michigan

Things You Can Do

- Do not dump into storm drains
- Follow lawn and garden chemicals application instructions and sweep up excess and spills
- Repair vehicle leaks and cover spilled fluids with absorbent and then sweep into household trash
- Place pet waste in a plastic bag and drop it in a trash can or flush contents in toilet
- Control soil erosion by planting ground cover and stabilize erosion-prone areas
- Clear grass clippings, leaves, and litter from street gutters and storm drains
- Direct downspouts onto grassy areas away from paved surfaces
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your vehicle on the grass
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals in an approved manner