

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

Any discharge to a storm drain that is not composed entirely of stormwater. An illicit discharge can be the result of:

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



COMMON ILLICIT DISCHARGES:

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

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Keep storm drains clear of trash & debris.
- Wash your car at a car wash.
- Pick-up after your pets.
- Increase your garden area & decrease your lawn area. Plant with native plants!
- Mulch grass clippings & leaves into your yard.
- Limit pesticide use.



STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

Fall 2022

Managing Stormwater on Your Property this Fall

Fall is here, which means there is lots of raking to do! Did you know that yard debris, including leaves and other organic plant material like shrubby trimmings and grass clippings are a significant source of stormwater pollution? This debris can clog culverts, storm drains, and pipes, causing flooding.

Debris can also carry fertilizers and pesticides from your yard and deposit them in streams and ponds. Piles of leaves and grass clippings will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion.

When working on your yard this fall, consider some of these tips to enhance water quality and manage stormwater:

- **Do not pile leaves or other yard waste near streams or drainage channels** where they can blow or wash into creeks. Use designated leaf collection bags for curbside leaf recycling.
- **Do not blow leaves or grass clippings off your property** into streets, streams, ponds, or drainage swales.
- **Recycle grass clippings and their nutrients on your lawn.** Mulch your leaves into your yard, or pile them in your garden areas. They will add nutrients back into your lawn and provide shelter for wildlife during the winter months.
- **Plant a native tree!** Trees provide vital habitat for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than you lawn does.



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Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

W I N T E R 2 0 2 2 - 2 0 2 3



Melting Snow Is Stormwater Too!

Stormwater runoff can come in many forms, including snow melt! When the ground is frozen, melting snow can't infiltrate into the soil the way a light or moderate rain would be able to. This means that even a small amount of snow can cause flooding issues on your property.

When snow melts, it picks up all kinds of debris and pollutants that will make their way to nearby streams and creeks.

Check out some steps that you can take to prevent stormwater pollution this winter.

- **Start shoveling early!** The more snow you remove, the less salt and sand you'll need.
- **Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity for it to infiltrate into the ground.**
- **Use deicing salt sparingly.** Follow product instructions and give it time to work. Sweep up any remaining material.
- **Clear away any snow that may have been thrown onto the storm drains.**
- **Salt is not effective once temperatures hit 15 degrees Fahrenheit or below.** Consider using traction materials that contain acetate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, or cracked cornmeal.



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Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Spring 2023



Caring for Your Yard this Spring

Spring is here and with it comes warmer weather, rain and lots of yard work! Before you head outside to tackle your latest project, remember that what you do to your yard has a direct impact on the local environment. Luckily, there are lots of small steps that you can take as a homeowner to make your yard more eco-friendly!

Consider these tips to help you reduce stormwater pollution and provide valuable habitat for local wildlife on your property.

Clean-up

Collect and dispose of any trash that might have blown into your yard over the winter. Mulch or compost leaves and garden cuttings from the fall so that they don't get washed into local streams.

Fertilize Carefully

Look for slow release nitrogen fertilizer since it is less likely to harm water quality. Several small fertilizer applications spread out over the growing season is better than one large application. Never apply fertilizer before it rains!

Plant Natives!

Spring is a great time to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials! Native PA species require less maintenance, are more beneficial for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than non-natives.

Mow Sharp and High

A sharp mower blade cuts grass cleanly which improves turf health. Set your mower deck to 2.5 inches or more to help reduce stormwater runoff and shade out weeds. Where possible, consider converting a section of your lawn to a native garden.

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STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

SUMMER 2023

SUMMER STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater runoff is a major pollutant of our local waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks, parking lots, across bare soil and lawns. As it flows, runoff collects and transports many different kinds of pollutants. This water drains directly into nearby creeks and streams without being treated at a sewage plant.

Luckily, there are many steps that you can take to help reduce the amount of pollutants entering our waterways.

*Here are some tips to manage
stormwater pollution this summer:*



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- **Pick up after your dog.** Their waste is not natural, its full of bacteria and excess nutrients that will create algae blooms and contaminate local waterways.
- **Water your lawn & garden slowly.** Only water your grass and plants when necessary. When watering, be sure to do so slowly to reduce runoff. Consider investing in irrigation hoses or gator bags where possible.
- **Wash your car the right way.** Either wash it at a car wash that filters wastewater, or in a grassy area.

