

WHAT IS ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, illicit discharges are generally any discharge into a storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

WHAT PRODUCES ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

A wide variety of activities can produce illicit discharges, including:

- Wash down of greasy equipment and grease traps
- Power washing of buildings and parking lots
- Dumping and spills
- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings
- Household cleansers
- Paints and solvents
- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Outdoor material and fluid storage
- Road maintenance
- Driveway cleaning
- Septic system maintenance
- Swimming pool discharges
- Bacteria from animal waste
- Illegal connections to the sewer or storm drain system

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Below are some simple steps that can be taken by residents and business owners to help keep illicit discharges out of our waterways:

1. Recycle used oil, antifreeze and batteries;
2. Wash your car on the grass so that the water, detergent and dirt will be filtered by the soil;

3. Empty bottles of household cleansers, pesticides and fertilizers should be disposed of according to the label directions;
4. Grass clippings should be swept up after each mowing. They enter waterways and have the potential of causing algae blooms;
5. Dispose of paints, paint thinners and solvents at Westchester County at Household Material Recovery Days;
6. Clean-up after your pet.

HOW DO I REPORT AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

Reporting, for the most part, will rely on public participation. If you observe or suspect illegal dumping within our waterways or storm sewers, you are encouraged to contact the Department of Public Works at 914-670-3128 to report a stormwater violation.

We must work together to ensure the quality of our waterways. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sources: NYSDEC, Stormwater Magazine, EPA

**Town/Village of Harrison
Engineering Department
1 Heineman Place
Harrison, New York 10528
914-670-3000**

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