

What is Storm Water Pollution?

The stormwater drainage system collects all the rain that runs off hard surfaces such as pavement and rooftops. This runoff, called stormwater flows along the curb and gutter and then into a storm drain.

After entering the storm drain, stormwater is routed to the nearest lake, pond, or river. Anything that enters the stormwater drainage system besides rainfall is considered an illicit discharge and is a violation of the Highlands County Illicit Discharge Ordinance.

Grease, oils and detergents have potential to cause fish kill and other biological degradation and restrict recreational activities such as swimming and fishing. The purpose of the Illicit Discharge Ordinance is to protect public health, safety and welfare by controlling pollution in our waterways.

Do **your** part to protect our environment from these types of pollution. Implement these best management practices today!



To schedule a visit to discuss preventative measures at your location, please contact:

Highlands County

Critical Infrastructure Department

(863) 402-6877



To report an illicit discharge, please call:

Highlands County

Critical Infrastructure Department

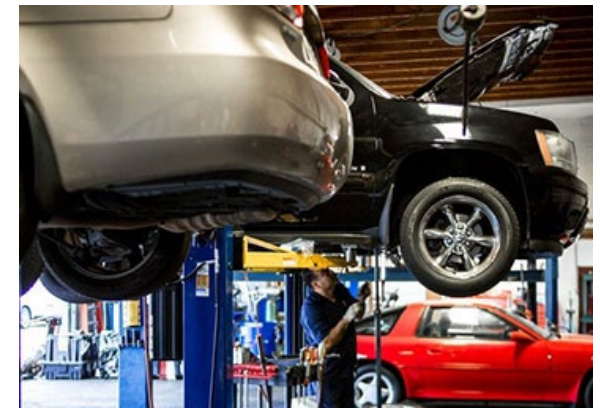
(863) 402-6877

You **CAN** make a Difference!



Protecting Our
Waters From
Stormwater Pollution

Preventing Illegal Discharges from Automotive Waste



Highlands County
Engineering Department

What is Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain system.

An illicit connection is any connection which allows non-stormwater to enter the storm drain system including sewage, wastewater and wash water.



Good Working Practices to Follow

- **Materials and Waste Handling:**
DO NOT pour liquid waste into floor drains, sinks, outdoor storm drain inlets. **DO NOT** dump mop water outside. Pour into floor drain or sink for treatment.
- **Proper Storage and Handling of Hazardous Waste:**
Cover the work area to limit exposure to rain. Use secondary containment when storing batteries and hazardous liquids; keep liquid wastes segregated.
- **Cleaning Auto Parts:**
Minimize use of solvents. Clean parts without using solvents whenever possible, or use water-based solvents. Clean greasy hands with a water-less hand cleaner.
- **Cleaning Up Spills:**
Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work area. Use dry methods for spill clean up, i.e. sweeping.
- **More Good Housekeeping:**
Check gas pumps for spills. Keep dry absorbent materials near the pumps in case of a spill.
- **Washing Vehicles:**
Ensure the car wash detergent and wax are only used inside of the wash bay and the wastewater is captured and sent to the sanitary sewer.

How Can You Help?

- Report any spill immediately to the Highlands County Engineering Department. When reporting a spill, be sure to include the location, date, time, type of spill and measures currently being taken to mitigate any damage.