

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
Food Service
Businesses



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

- Pour all wash water into the utility sink. **DO NOT** pour wash water down the storm drain.
- Keep the lid to the dumpster closed so that rain can't get in and leak out as garbage juice.
- Sweep around the dumpster daily and inspect for leaks.
- Dispose of grease or oil properly. **DO NOT** dump down the storm drain or sanitary sewer. Check grease trap regularly for overflows.
- Clean mops, mats, oily vents, trash cans, etc. in the utility sink or designated wash areas, **not in the parking lot. DO NOT** let this wash water flow down to the storm drain.
- Never hose-down a spill. Use dry clean-up methods for spills and keep absorbent materials handy (e.g. dry mops, paper towels, kitty litter, etc.)
- Keep cleaning materials out of the rain and place in a covered area that is designed to prevent runoff.
- Mobile vendors should check carts and vehicles for leaks daily and repair immediately.

Management Responsibilities

- Contact a hazardous waste hauler to dispose of grease bins.
- Have a hazardous materials response plan and be sure all employees are capable of implementing each phase of the plan.
- Check offsite drainage patterns. (Where is water coming onto and leaving the site?) Reduce flow by use of open vegetated swales and other non-structural measures.
- If cleaning the parking lot is necessary, install proper measures to ensure wastewater and detergents do not enter the storm drainage system.
- 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.

