What is Storm Water Pollution?

The stormwater drainage system collects all the rain that runs off of 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 stream, creek, or lake. Anything that enters the stormwater drainage system besides rainfall is considered an illicit discharge and is a violation of Raleigh's Illicit Discharge Ordinance.

Grease, oils, and detergents have potential to cause fish kills, 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 into our waterways.

Do *your* part to protect our environment from these types of pollution.

To report illicit discharges
Call (919) 996-3940

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

City of Raleigh

Public Works Department
Stormwater Utility Division
222 West Hargett Street, Room 301
PO Box 590
Raleigh, NC 27602-0590
919-996-3940
StormwaterUtilityHelpingU@raleighnc.gov

For more information about illicit discharges, water pollution, and stormwater, please visit
www.raleighnc.gov

Protecting Streams and Lakes From Pollution

Preventing Illegal Discharges from Landscaping Businesses

City of Raleigh

Public Works Department
Stormwater Utility Division

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge or *illegal* discharge is any disposal, emptying, or dumping of any substance other than rainfall into the stormwater drainage system.

An illicit connection or *illegal* connection is any connection of wastewater, such as from a bathroom or a washing machine, into the stormwater drainage system.

The accidental spill or leak of a harmful substance is also an illicit discharge.

What Happens to Violators?

First time offenders and repeat offenders of Raleigh's Illicit Discharge Ordinance can receive substantial fines. All fines go to the Wake County Public School System.

Leaves blocking a storm drain.

Illicit Discharges

First time offenders can be served a civil penalty up to $5,000. This fine can continue for each day the discharge continues. For repeat offenders, the penalty will double the amount that was previously fined up to $25,000 each day.

Illicit Connections

First time offenders can be fined up to $5,000 for each day the City Ordinance is being violated . Repeat offenders can be fined up to $25,000 per day.

Good Working Practices to Remember

1. When yard waste is discarded or blown into a stormwater inlet, the street system, or along a stream bank, it can cause flooding problems. Leaves and yard debris can block the natural flow of water in the storm drainage system, which can cause water to back up and flood within the drainage system or the stream.
2. When yard waste is discarded on a stream bank, it may prevent plants from growing on the stream bank. Plants along stream banks are needed as they help stabilize the slope of the stream bank and prevent erosion.
3. When yard waste is discarded in streams or within the stormwater drainage system, it will decompose. Decomposing yard waste can supercharge the stream with nutrients, causing algae blooms resulting in low dissolved oxygen. Severely low dissolved oxygen levels in streams can cause fish kills.
4. When yard waste is discarded in streams or within the stormwater drainage system, it brings harmful chemicals into the stream, including fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. While these chemicals can be used to protect grass, they will harm aquatic life and cause additional adverse affects to water quality when released into streams.

Management Responsibilities

- At residential properties, DO NOT blow yard debris into the street or into any stormwater inlets or streams.
- At residential properties, blowing grass clippings back into the yard will help provide healthier grass.
- At residential properties, blow leaves into a pile and bag them for disposal.
- At commercial properties, DO NOT blow yard debris into the street or into any stormwater inlets or streams.
- At commercial properties, collect the yard debris and property dispose at the Raleigh Yard Waste Center at 900 North New Hope Road.