

## How does this Cause 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 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](http://www.raleighnc.gov)



## Protecting Streams and Lakes From Pollution

*Preventing Illegal Discharges from Food Service 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 considered 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.

### *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.



A leaking compactor.

## Good Housekeeping Practices to Remember



1. Once a week, walk around the building and dumpsters; look for discharges. Check dumpsters and compactors for leaks that might discharge wastewater. If leaks are found, call the waste management contractor to repair or replace the unit immediately.
2. DO NOT dump mop water outside. Instead, pour into the sanitary sewer via the floor drain or sink drain.
3. Check grease traps for overflows.
4. When cleaning dumpster pads, driveways, and sidewalks to restaurants, install appropriate measures to ensure washwater and detergents DO NOT enter the storm drainage system.
5. If you find it is necessary to clean parking lots, install appropriate measures to ensure washwater and detergents DO NOT enter the storm drainage system.
6. All mobile food vendors must return to staging areas to dispose of wastewater and materials. DO NOT put any food or other waste into the stormwater drainage system.
7. Mobile vendors should check vehicles and/or carts daily for leaks and repair immediately.

## Management Responsibilities

- Ensure your business has a spill response plan
- Ensure employees know where spill kits are and how to use them.
- Report any spill or discharge into the stormwater drainage system to the City of Raleigh Stormwater Utility Division.
- When reporting a spill or discharge, provide the following information: what happened, street address or nearest intersection, name of business, and date and time it happened.
- To report illicit discharges Call (919) 996-3940