

Illicit Discharge:

What is an illicit Discharge?

Stormwater regulations define an "illicit discharge" as "any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater" (except discharges resulting from fire fighting activities and a few other exclusions). Common sources of non-stormwater, dry weather discharges in urban areas include apartments and homes, car washes, restaurants, airports, landfills, and gas stations, to name but a few. These so called "generating sites" discharge sanitary wastewater, septic system effluent, vehicle wash water, washdown from grease traps, motor oil, antifreeze, gasoline and fuel spills, among other substances. Although these illicit discharges can enter the storm drain system in various ways, they generally result from either direct connections (e.g., wastewater piping either mistakenly or deliberately connected to the storm drains or gutters) or indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the storm drain system, spills, or "midnight dumping").

The result of an illicit discharge is an effluent that contributes to high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving waterbodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in EPA studies to be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

Basically, only rain water and snow melt are allowed in the City's storm drain system.

The following are examples of an illicit discharge:

- The sewage line from a house or business is incorrectly connected to the storm system.
- There is a cross-connection between the sewer line and storm drainage system. This can be from an old connection that was never plugged or the plug has deteriorated, or it can be caused by filtration from leaking or cracked pipes.
- Improper disposal of auto and household toxics (for example, pouring used automotive oil, or radiator discharge, into a drain or gutter on the street).
- Laundry or car wash discharge flows to or is directly connected to the storm sewer system (floor drain, gutter etc.).
- Animal waste from agricultural practices or pets
- Wastes from carpet cleaning or pressure washers.
- Septic System discharge to the storm drain system (drains, gutter..etc.).
- Sanitary wastewater.
- Sediment and pollutants from construction sites.
- Hosing down roads and sidewalks.

***Not all non storm water discharges are considered illicit discharges,
Examples of exempt discharges include:***

- Water line flushing;
- Landscape irrigation;
- Diverted stream flows;
- Rising ground waters;
- Uncontaminated ground water infiltration;
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water;
- Discharges of clean water from potable water sources;
- Foundation drains;
- Air conditioning condensation;
- Irrigation water;
- Springs;
- Water from crawl space pumps;
- Footing drains;
- Lawn watering;
- Individual residential car washing;
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands;
- De-chlorinated swimming pool discharges; and
- Street wash water.

What do I do if I spot an illicit discharge or any stormwater violation?

For storm water violations, illicit discharges or spills please call the North Logan City's Stormwater Representative, at the City Offices (435-752-1310 ext 10). If no answer, please call the North Logan Fire Department (435-755-5739). If still no answer, please call the Bear River Health Department (435-792-6500).

For general questions or information regarding storm water please contact Terrel Huppi at 435-752-7107.