

Illicit Discharge is Illegal Dumping



Keep out of drains/ditches:

Oil, paint, grease, chemicals, pool water, grass clippings, furniture, yard debris, water softener salt, trash, scrap metal, and construction debris. Informal/homemade connections to the stormdrain system are also illicit discharges. Improper dumping goes directly to our lakes, streams, and wetlands causing damage and a burden of clean-up costs on public tax dollars.



What goes into drains:

Rain and snowmelt.

"Only rain down the drain"

Accountability is a community effort.

Contact your City or Township engineering or public works department to anonymously report an illicit discharge.

Water Conservation Tips

What can we do to conserve water?

- ◆ Choose a sprinkler that disperses water low and in drops opposed to a high mist.
- ◆ Pay attention to rainfall and adjust watering schedules accordingly, in addition to odd/even watering days. Turf generally needs just 1"/week. Water in early morning/ evening.
- ◆ Consider allowing a dormant or slightly dormant "brown" look. Dormancy is a normal part of turf grass' annual cycle.
- ◆ Never water pavement. Stray irrigation heads are usually an easy fix, and sprinkler placement can always be strategic to keep water on the lawn.
- ◆ Mow lawn at 3" or more to encourage deeper roots that hold more moisture. This also buffers times of drought.
- ◆ Try introducing native plants, a bee lawn, sedge ground covers, or low-mow fescues.

Water conservation in the home:

- ◆ Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge to reduce time spent waiting for the faucet to change temperature.
- ◆ Try "army showers" that turn the water off when lathering, and aim for 3-5 minutes total.
- ◆ Check toilets and faucets for leaks often and make repairs quickly.
- ◆ Visit commercial car washes to send wash water and road gunk to a water treatment plant. Drive-way washing sends this material to local waterways. To be adventurous at home, try washing cars on the lawn.

More ways to help:

- ◆ Visit your local watershed website for more water tips and cost-share grants for yard and drainage improvements.
- ◆ Visit adopt-a-drain.org to adopt a nearby stormdrain and volunteer to keep it clean.

**ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN**

