

Illicit Discharge is Illegal Dumping



Help prevent illegal dumping.

Keep the following items out of stormdrains, ditches, and wetlands: Oil, paint, grease, chemicals, pool water, grass clippings, furniture, leaves and other yard debris, water softener salt, trash, scrap metal, mop bucket or carpet cleaning water, and construction debris.

Irresponsible dumping goes directly to our lakes, streams, and wetlands unfiltered. This causes damage, increases maintenance, and puts a burden of extra maintenance on public tax dollars.



What goes into drains and ditches:

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.



How do I know if I see an illicit discharge?



Detecting illicit discharge:

- Residues, stains, odors, or unusual damage around stormdrains.
- Sediment running off of a construction site.
- Fowl smells gathered around storm outputs.
- Water flowing in roadside ditches or into stormdrains when it hasn't rained.
- Pipes or hoses directed into stormdrains or ditches.
- Piles of debris or trash in ditches, ponds, lakes, or wetlands.
- Spotting someone in the act. Kindly inform them that the drain leads to a waterbody. Many times people just aren't aware.

See reverse for responsible disposal.

MWMO

Chattham County

Responsible disposal:

Contact your county waste department for questions or more info.

Substance	Disposal
Oil, grease, and automotive liquids	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection
Paint and paint thinners	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection
Pet waste	Trash or sanitary sewer
Grass clippings, leaves, yard debris	Yard waste collection site or yard waste hauler service
Cleaning chemicals	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection
Needles/syringes	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection
Medicine	Medicine collection sites (i.e. police depts) - contact county
Water softener salt	Small amounts (single tank): Trash Large amount: Hauler service
Road salt/de-icer	Road salt/de-icer into trash or sweep-up and reuse
Pool/hot tub water	Chlorination stopped 1 week prior to discharge. Sanitary sewer or to upland soil surface
Pool/hot tub chemicals and filters	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection
Mop bucket and carpet cleaning water	Sanitary sewer, filtered debris into trash
Building materials, cement, and construction/demolition waste	Contact trash hauler or seek a disposal company. Small amounts of wallboard/drywall/sheetrock in trash
Hardware: knobs, nails, bolts, etc.	Trash or scrap metal recycling facility
Scrap metal	Scrap metal recycling facility
Sawdust	Small amounts into trash or backyard compost (untreated)
Furniture and appliances	Bulky waste hauler service, search for individual appliance disposal options and contractors

Informal/homemade connections to the stormdrain system or ditches are also illicit discharges.

Reporting an illicit discharge:

- 1. Photograph.** Document the substance that's been dumped into a ditch, pond, or water conveyance system with a photo. (I.e. grass clippings, paint, automotive fluids, construction site run-off, cleaning substances, etc.). If a photo isn't possible, note the substance or what you expect the substance to be.
- 2. Think like a detective.** Document the specific location with a street, cross street, or cardinal directions of the ditch or stormdrain. Note the day and time as well as vehicle type or license plate.
- 3. Call** the your City or Township engineering or public works department to report the infringement. If you're not sure if it's illegal dumping but suspect it, staff will investigate to determine the nature of the problem. Staff will pursue remediation and clean-up as necessary.
- 4. Celebrate your success!** Clean water is everyone's business and responsibility. Reporting may seem difficult or intimidating, but can be anonymous and is the responsible thing to do for the community, water quality, and wildlife.