

RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION ON ILLICIT DISCHARGE

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN:

An illicit discharge is any non-stormwater substance that enters a storm drain system, or is otherwise released into a water body, and is harmful to human health or the environment. Common examples include sewage, automotive fluids, household chemicals, pet waste, and grass clippings. These discharges are illegal and harmful because stormwater systems are designed to carry rainwater directly to local waterways without treatment, leading to pollution and degraded water quality.

What an Illicit Discharge Is

- **Not Stormwater:**

It is any liquid or substance that enters the storm drain system that is not just rainwater or precipitation runoff.

- **Harmful Pollutants:**

These substances often contain high levels of pollutants like pathogens, heavy metals, oil, grease, nutrients, and other toxic chemicals.

- **Illegal:**

Discharging anything that is not stormwater into the system is prohibited by law and ordinance.

- **Untreated:**

Unlike wastewater, which goes to a treatment plant, storm water flows directly to rivers and other water bodies, carrying any illicit pollutants with it.

Examples of Illicit Discharges

- Wastewater from car washes, laundry, or septic tanks
- Improperly disposed of automotive fluids like motor oil, coolants, and other fluids from spills
- Household chemicals such as cleaners, solvents, and paints
- Grass clippings, pesticides, and pet waste
- Spills from accidents or intentional dumping

Why Illicit Discharges Are a Problem

- **Threat to Water Quality:** They severely degrade receiving water quality.
- **Health Risks:** They can introduce pathogens, bacteria, and other harmful substances that threaten aquatic life, wildlife, and human health.

How to Help

- **Report:**

Report any suspected illicit discharges to your local authorities by calling their designated number.

- **Dispose Properly:**

Dispose of all waste and chemicals properly and do not dump them on the ground or into storm drains.

- **Be Aware:**

Recognize what an illicit discharge looks like and where to report it in your community.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO REPORT AN ISSUE, PLEASE CALL THE VILLAGE HALL AT 845-496-3221.

Thank You.

Tom

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09-26-2025