

## How do you Report Illicit Discharges?

Call 919-996-3940 to report illicit discharges to the Stormwater Utility Division of the City of Raleigh. Staff will investigate the situation and determine whether or not a violation occurred. If a violation did occur, the City will take actions to ensure the violation does not happen again. In addition, the City will protect your confidentiality.

### Information Needed to Report Illicit Discharges

Call 919-996-3940

1. What happened
2. Where it happened; nearest street intersection or address (and business name, if a business was involved)
3. Date and time of event
4. Your name and phone number

## 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](mailto: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

*Reporting Illicit Discharges & Surface Water Pollution in Raleigh*



*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.

## How does this Cause Water Pollution?

The stormwater drainage system collects all the rainwater that runs off hard surfaces, such as pavement and rooftops. This water, called stormwater runoff, flows along the curb and gutter and then drains into a catch basin or a drop inlet. After entering the catch basin, stormwater and any associated pollutants are routed to the nearest stream, creek, or lake. Anything that enters the stormwater drainage system besides rainfall is considered an illicit discharge violates the Illicit Discharge Ordinance.

Water pollution can not only damage the environment and impair wildlife, but it can also 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.



Soapy water draining from a commercial car wash.

## What is and What isn't an Illicit Discharge?



Typical illicit discharges include the following examples:

- Paint spills (as shown to the left)*
- Soapy wash water*
- Gasoline or motor oil spills*
- Wastewater*
- Grease*

### *Exceptions to the rule.*

Below are some examples of discharges that do not significantly impact water quality and are therefore not considered illicit discharges.

- Air conditioning condensate*
- Flows from fire fighting*
- Residential and charity car washing*
- Irrigation water*

## What Happens to Violators?

First time offenders and repeat offenders 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 for violating the City Ordinance depending on the amount of the discharge. If the discharge is equal to or less than 5 gallons, the violator can be fined up to \$1,000. This fine can continue for each day the discharge continues.

If the discharge is greater than 5 gallons, the violator can be fined up to \$5,000; this fine can also 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.