

## Report Sewage

Sewage is perhaps the easiest to identify, due to its distinct and significant odor. There may be black staining inside the drain pipe, along with toilet paper. The water may be gray, as well. There are several sources of sewage, and they include broken or overflowing residential, commercial or industrial separate sanitary sewer mains, porta-potty spills, or camper waste, in addition to overflowing septic systems. In Rockland County, as most locations are now served by municipal sanitary sewers, malfunctioning or overflowing sanitary sewers are the most likely source

## Report Oil and Gas Spills

One way to differentiate motor oil, gasoline or diesel fuel from natural sheens from plant secretions is to note whether they remain separate after swirled. Natural agents from plant or vegetation sources will remain separate, while gasoline, diesel fuel and motor oil will always re-attach. If you note the presence of re-attached oily sheens, report them immediately.

In addition to illegal dumping of oils, leaks from engines contaminate the ground, after which rainfall will then carry the oil into storm drains and then into watercourses.

You can help by not topping off your gas tank, properly servicing your vehicle, and recycling used motor oil. In addition, clean up any spills that occur while servicing your vehicle properly and promptly. If you note any amount of spilled fuel or oil on paved surfaces, report it immediately.

## REPORT SUSPICIOUS CONNECTIONS OR DUMPING PROMPTLY!

### If you suspect Illicit Discharge:

#### Report the following:

- Location
- Description and extent
- Take photographs if possible

### Is It An Emergency?

If yes, call your local municipality.

*Stormwater Consortium*  
of ROCKLAND COUNTY

PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES



*Stormwater Consortium*  
of ROCKLAND COUNTY

PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES



## Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program

### What Is Illicit Discharge?

Illicit Discharge refers to any discharge into a storm drain system that is not comprised totally of rainwater. New York State Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS-4) Regulations prohibit the discharge of anything into storm drains that is not comprised totally of rain or pumped groundwater.



New York State Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS-4) Phase II Stormwater Management rules mandate programs dedicated to the elimination and prevention of Illicit Discharges.

**Learn to Identify and Report Illicit Discharges!**

## Storm Drains Drain Directly to Rivers Lakes and Streams!

This means that any substance discharged into storm drains will enter these bodies of water, and contaminate them.

Stormwater runoff is a major source of surface water pollution, as it can pick up contaminants from the ground such as sediment, oil from motor vehicles, fertilizer, pet waste, grass and landscape clippings, car wash water, among other agents. Make sure you:

- Fix auto and other motor leaks promptly.
- Dispose of used motor oil properly.
- Do not fertilize before it rains.
- Dispose of trash properly.
- NEVER dump anything into a storm drain!

Helpful Definitions:

*Illicit Discharge* refers to any discharge or seepage into the separate stormwater drainage system that is NOT comprised totally of storm (rain) water or un-contaminated groundwater.

*Illicit Connection* means a physical connection to a separate stormwater drainage system that primarily carries illicit discharges into the system and is not authorized by local or other authorities.

*Stormwater Runoff* is rain or snowmelt that falls on impervious surfaces and can then pick up contaminants as it flows to natural or artificial bodies of water or drainage systems

There are acceptable discharges:

- Foundation and footing drain runoff
- Water from non-commercial car washing
- Water main flushing
- Diverted stream flows, as by proper state and local permit only.
- Air Conditioner condensate
- Water from sump pumps
- Discharges from potable water sources.
- De-chlorinated discharges from residential swimming pools.
- Flows from firefighting.

**REMEMBER – IF YOU DO NOT DRINK IT, DO NOT DUMP IT!**

**ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN!**

To learn more, visit the Stormwater Consortium's page on the Rockland County Cooperative Extension's Web site:

<http://rocklandcoce.org/stormwater-consortium>

**Learn to Identify and Report Illicit Discharges.**

### Dry Weather Flow

Any flow in a storm drain system during dry weather (72 hours or more after rainfall has stopped) should be investigated. This is especially important if odors, color or staining is present, as this can indicate an illicit discharge. Trained investigators will need to be called if these conditions are present.

### Report Suds

Suds often can indicate contamination by illicit discharges, which may include illegal washing machine or car= discharges. There are natural foams as well, but it is important to check out any foam condition, as detergents are very toxic to fish and other wildlife. Make sure to wash cars and other outdoor equipment in designated areas, away from any storm drains or areas directly leading to streams.