Illicit Discharges

What is an Illicit Discharge?

• Any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of rainwater or snowmelt.

• Exceptions to this under City Code include
  • Water line flushing.
  • Runoff or return flow from landscape irrigation.
  • Discharges from potable water sources.
  • Diverted stream flows.
  • Rising ground waters and springs.
  • Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration.
  • Uncontaminated pumped ground water.
  • Foundation and footing drains.
  • Air conditioning condensation.
  • Water from crawl space pumps.
  • Individual residential car washing.
  • Flows from naturally existing riparian habitats and wetlands.
  • Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges.
  • Water incidental to street sweeping (including associated sidewalks and medians) not associated with construction; and
  • Discharges necessary to protect public health and safety, such as flows from emergency firefighting activities.
The Stormwater Ordinance, 8-11-8, prohibits the discharge, disposal, pouring, or dumping of any pollutant into the storm drainage system and is subject to a $999 fine per violation per day. Only rain water runoff is generally allowed in the storm drain. Some discharges are specifically allowed, such as lawn watering and residential vehicle washing. For a detailed list of exemptions please refer to the Westminster ordinance.

Chemical spills that may enter the drainage system must be immediately contained. “Dry” clean-up methods such as sweeping or absorbance materials should be used. Those responsible for the property where a spill or illicit discharge has occurred must notify the City through the Stormwater Hotline at 303-706-3367 within one working day. Examples of illicit discharges include:

- Dumping used motor oil/chemicals down storm drains
- Improper connections into ditches or ponds
- Cooking oil or grease leaking from commercial dumpsters
- Trash, debris, leaves or yard wastes along waterways
- Sanitary sewer overflows discharging into the storm sewer

The Westminster Stormwater Ordinance also prohibits pipes or ditches that can carry sanitary waste to storm drains or directly into streams. Discharges from these connections are illegal and must be removed as soon as possible.

Residential and commercial property owners must ensure that leaves, material waste and dirt do not enter storm drains, street gutters or ditches. Please do your part to keep our streams and ponds clean!!

For more information, please visit [www.cityofwestminster.us/stormwater](http://www.cityofwestminster.us/stormwater)