

Identifying and Reporting Illicit Discharges



What Is an Illicit Discharge?

Chapter 7 of the City Code (available at [here](#)) defines an illicit discharge as:

"A discharge to the city's storm sewer system or to waters of the United States which is not composed entirely of stormwater, unless exempted pursuant to this regulation, and/or the discharge to the city's storm sewer system or to waters of the United States and which is not in compliance with federal, state and city permits."

Why do We Need to Identify and Report Illicit Discharges?

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was created in 1972 by the [Clean Water Act](#) (CWA) and helps address water pollution by regulating sources of pollution to waters of the United States. The City of St. Augustine Beach is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permitted under Phase II of the NPDES program. In order to comply with our permit, the City must establish regulations prohibiting illicit discharges into the MS4 and provide sufficient means to monitor and enforce local discharge regulations. In 2008, the City adopted Ordinance 2008-31 addressing illicit discharge.

What Types of Things Are Not Allowed?

In addition to obvious pollutants such as oils, antifreeze and chemicals, many normal household activities can cause an illicit discharge. Dumping yard waste, draining chlorinated swimming pool water and household waste water from washing machines, dishwashers or water softening devices into ditches, storm drains and canals are also classified as illicit discharges. Even sweeping grass clippings into a storm drain is an illicit discharge. The City's ditches and pipes eventually make their way to one of the surrounding water bodies (i.e. the Matanzas River, Salt Run or the Atlantic Ocean). Even if there is no direct connection to a ditch or pipe, contaminants discharged on the ground can make their way through the groundwater and contaminate the receiving water bodies.

What to Do if I see an Illicit Discharge

It is imperative that illicit discharges be detected, reported and corrected as early as possible to minimize harm to the environment. If you see or suspect illegal dumping or illicit discharges into the City's drainage system, please call the Public Works Department (904) 471-1119 or email [public-works \[at\] cityofsab.org](mailto:public-works@cityofsab.org). If possible, tell the dispatcher what is being dumped, the time of the day, the location of the illicit dumping and (if applicable) a license plate number of the vehicle or trailer involved. You may also download and fill out an Illicit Discharge Report Form from this page and email it to [public-works \[at\] cityofsab.org](mailto:public-works@cityofsab.org). Please include in the email subject line the words "POTENTIAL ILLICIT DISCHARGE" and the closest address to the observed condition. Public Works will promptly investigate the matter to determine if an Illicit discharge is occurring and facilitate corrective action if warranted.

More Information

More information on the NPDES program can be found at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency webpage at:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes>

Information related to stormwater discharge from construction activities is available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities>

HELPFUL LINKS:

Have a concern or request regarding City operations? Click [here](#).

Have a question regarding stormwater management and City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program? Click [here](#).



CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH



*Water Resource Protection
Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination*

WHAT IS ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Any discharge to a storm drain system or waterway that is not composed entirely of stormwater

Examples:

- sanitary wastewater
- septic tank effluent
- car wash wastewater
- motor oil/automotive fluids
- laundry wastewater
- Household/yard chemicals
- leaves & yard waste
- eroded soils



SIMPLE STEPS TO CLEANER WATER

Recycle Motor Oil

- City of St. Augustine Beach residents can bring used motor oil to the City Public Works Facility at 2055 Mizell Road

Properly dispose of Automotive Fluids, Batteries, Household Chemicals and Paints

- Automotive fluids, batteries, household chemicals and paints are accepted at the following locations:

Tillman Ridge Transfer Station 3005 Allen Nease Road Elkton, FL 32033	Stratton Rd. Transfer Station 250 North Stratton Road St. Augustine, FL 32095
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For more information visit: <http://www.co.st-johns.fl.us/solidwaste/transferstations.aspx>

Wash your Car over the Grass

- Grass will filter the wastewater from your car wash so it will not reach the storm sewer

Or better yet



Self-Paced Illicit Discharge Training 47.41 MB

Use a Commercial Car Wash

- Less water is used
- Contaminants are captured and sent to the wastewater treatment plant.

Illicit Discharge Ordinance 2008-31
491.01 KB

SIMPLE STEPS TO CLEANER WATER

Sweep up Grass Clippings after Mowing

Grass clippings are loaded with nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) which can cause algal blooms in our waterways.

Grass clippings should be swept up and either composted on site or disposed of with City yard waste collection



Illicit Discharge Report Form 129.17 KB

SIMPLE STEPS TO CLEANER WATER

Clean Up Pet Waste

- A source of nitrogen and phosphorous as well as fecal coliform, pet waste can pollute the downstream waters
- Pet waste bags and refuse containers are located throughout the City



WHAT TO DO IF I SEE SOMETHING?



Immediately Report any observed pollution



Promptly Report any observed illegal dumping or pollution

Call

**The City of St. Augustine Beach Public Works
(904) 471-1119**

[View Slideshow](#)