

POSSIBLE ILLICIT DISCHARGE CONNECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

The Town enacted an ordinance addressing illicit discharge connections into our drainage ditches as part of our WDNR stormwater permit several years ago. The following definition is taken from the Environmental Protection Agency concerning illicit discharge connections (modified to fit our Town) .

An illicit discharge is defined as any discharge to the Town roadside ditches (ditches) that is not composed entirely of storm water, except for discharges allowed under an NPDES permit or waters used for firefighting operations. These non-stormwater discharges occur due to illegal connections to the ditches from commercial establishments.

As a result of these illicit connections, contaminated wastewater enters ditches which flow directly into our lakes without receiving treatment from a wastewater treatment plant.

Illicit connections may be intentional or unknown to the business owner. These connections are often due to the floor drains connected to the storm drainage system. Additional sources of illicit discharges are failing septic systems, illegal dumping practices, and the improper disposal of sewage from recreational practices such as boating or camping.

Illicit discharges also can be generated by persons using antiquated methods for tasks such as cleaning pool filters, cleaning paint brushes, cars, washing and other common activities.

Town residents can help to eliminate illicit discharges and clean up our lakes and creeks (Door Creek/Lake Kegonsa and Upper Koshkonong Creek) through the following activities:

1. Private Swimming Pool Filter Cleaning and Discharge- Let the pool water sit untreated for 5 days before discharge into the ditch at the end of the season. Do not discharge pool filter backwash directly into the ditch. Backwash from pool filters must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, on-site septic tank and drain field system (if properly designed and adequately sized), or an unpaved vegetated area of your lawn away from the ditch.
2. Proper disposal of household cleaners, solvents, and paints- Do not dump in the ditch!!! Take all scrap metal, automotive fluids, lawn and garden care products, scrap wood and household batteries to:

- a. Dane County Department of Waste and Renewables Clean Sweep Program (phone #608-838-3212) Hours of operation 7:15 AM-3:15 PM at 7020 Maahic Way, Madison, WI or
- b. Dane County Landfill site (phone #608-838-9555) Hours of operation 6:30 AM -3:15 PM Mon-Fri. and 8:00 AM -10:45 AM Sat. at 7102 Maahic Way, Madison, WI.

Please see the Town website under the “Community” tab and then “Trash and Recycling” tab <<https://www.tn.cottagegrove.wi.gov/garbage-recycling/>> or call (608) 839-5021 ext. 132 for complete information on the proper disposal of all waste materials.

3. Septic System- Have your septic system checked periodically for any leaks or failures. COMM Chapter 83 contains minimum inspection standards for different types of septic systems typically every three years.
4. Car Wash- Get your car washed at commercial car wash or use environmentally friendly cleaner. Consider washing your car over the grass instead of on the driveway.
5. Look for dry weather discharge- If you do notice flow in a roadside ditch after a long dry period of no rainfall (at least three days of dry weather), contact Town Highway Superintendent Dan Dresen at 608-829-5021. (particularly if it has an unusual color or odor!)

Thank you, in advance, for helping to keep our lakes and creeks clean!!!