

Illicit Discharges and Connections

City of Belmont
Stormwater Management

Keep It Clean, We All Live Downstream

What are illicit discharges and connections?

The Stormwater System and the Sanitary Sewer System are two separate systems.

The sanitary sewer system, which is what the plumbing in your house is connected to (i.e. sinks, washing machines, and toilets), is conveyed by pipes to the Wastewater Treatment Plant where the wastewater is treated before being allowed to discharge to the Catawba River.

However the stormwater system discharges directly to local creeks and streams that flow into the Catawba River. **Stormwater is not treated** before discharging to surface waters. The stormwater system consists of streets, curbs, gutters, ditches, piped storm drains, catch basins, natural or man-made drainage channels, reservoirs, and any other drainage structures that discharge to streams, creeks, and/or rivers.



Illicit discharges are any non-stormwater discharge into the stormwater system. Materials such as, but not limited to, paints, oils, anti-freeze, chemicals, animal waste, garbage, litter, and swimming pool discharges are prohibited. Dumping or allowing anything other than stormwater into the stormwater system is an illicit discharge. Even washing out paint brushes in a manner in which the wash water reaches a storm drain is an illicit discharge. Always be aware of how

you dispose of materials.

Illicit connections are defined as any drain or conveyance which allows an illicit discharge to enter the stormwater system. Examples of illicit connections are floor drains, wastewater from washing machines, sanitary sewers, and septic systems that are connected directly or indirectly to the stormwater system. The above examples should be connected to the sanitary sewer system which is separate from the stormwater system.

Illicit discharges and connections are illegal, and if not eliminated in a timely manner, will result in civil penalties.

If you have a question on what constitutes an illicit discharge or connection call the Stormwater Management Department at (704)901-2076.



Always Remember:

- Illicit Discharges and Connections are **illegal**.
- Stormwater is **not treated** and goes directly to our creeks, streams, and rivers.
- The Stormwater System and the Sanitary Sewer System are **two separate** systems.
- Stormwater picks up everything in its path and carries it to the stormwater system and then to our water resources.
- Only stormwater is allowed to discharge to the stormwater system and surface waters. Only Rain Goes Down the Drain!
- Do Not Litter and Do Not Dump Illegally!
- Visit us on the web at www.cityofbelmont.org for more info on stormwater.

If you see or suspect an illicit discharge or connection, REPORT IT!

Call the City of Belmont Stormwater Management Department with the location and information.

City of Belmont
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