

# What is an ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

An **illicit discharge** is any **substance** that flows into storm drains that is **not entirely** made up of **stormwater**. Examples include car wash wastewater, gas and motor oil, cleansers, pet waste, solvents, and yard waste.



*Scan for more information or to report a stormwater concern.*

## HOW CAN I HELP?

- **Never dump, wash, or sweep** anything into storm drains
- **Do not** wash vehicles on roadways or driveways
- **Dispose** of motor oil and cleansers properly
- **Reduce** use of fertilizer and pesticides
- Pick up and **dispose** of pet waste
- **Report** spills and illegal dumping

Illicit discharges are most **noticeable** during **dry weather**.

Look for unusual **odor**, **suds**, an oil **sheen**, or **flowing liquid** during dry weather.

Contact the City of Lowell if you have identified a suspected illicit discharge. **(704) 824-3518**

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Storm drains **lead directly** to local water bodies, **untreated**. Illicit discharges pose a **threat** to our **drinking water** supply and make the treatment process more difficult and expensive.

Additionally, pollutants can be **damaging** to **wildlife** and **negatively** affect **recreation**.

