

# What is Storm Water Pollution?

The stormwater drainage system collects all the rain that runs off of hard surfaces such as pavement and rooftops. This runoff, called stormwater, flows along the curb and gutter and then into a storm drain.

After entering the storm drain, stormwater is routed to the nearest lake, pond or river. Anything that enters the stormwater drainage system besides rainfall is considered an illicit discharge and is a violation of Lake County's Illicit Discharge Ordinance.

Grease, oils, yard debris and detergents have potential to cause fish kills and other biological degradation, and restrict recreational activities such as swimming and fishing. The purpose of the Illicit Discharge Ordinance is to protect public health, safety and welfare by controlling pollution in our waterways.

Do *your* part to protect our environment from these types of pollution. Implement these best management practices today!

To schedule a visit to discuss preventative measures at your location, please contact:  
Lake County Public Works Department  
Stormwater Division  
(352)483-9090  
[www.lakecountyfl.gov/departments/public\\_works/](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/departments/public_works/)

To report an illicit discharge, please call:  
(352) 483-9080

For information about Lake County's waterways, please visit:  
[www.lake.wateratlas.usf.edu](http://www.lake.wateratlas.usf.edu)

**You *CAN* make a Difference!**



*Protecting Our Lakes  
and Rivers From  
Stormwater Pollution*

*Preventing Illegal  
Discharges from  
Landscaping  
Businesses*



*Lake County, Florida  
Public Works Department  
Stormwater Division*

## What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain system.

An illicit connection is any connection which allows non-stormwater to enter the storm drain system including sewage, wastewater and wash water.



## Good Working Practices to Follow

1. **Mowing:** Mow at the correct high for the type of sod: St. Augustine and Bahia at 3-4 inches, Bermuda and Centipede at 1.5 inches.
2. **Grass Clippings & Leaves:** *DO NOT* blow lawn clippings and leaves into the street or down the storm drain. Blow back onto the lawn or into a bed as free mulch and fertilizer.
3. **Fertilize Wisely:** Minimize use of fertilizers. Use a slow release with a low or 0 middle number (phosphorus). *DO NOT* fertilize when a large rain event is expected and *NEVER* within 10 feet of the water's edge.
4. **Good Housekeeping:** Don't leave excess fertilizer in the street or driveway. Sweep it up or blow it back onto the yard.
5. **Cleaning Up Spills:** Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work areas. Use dry methods for spill clean up, i.e. sweeping. Keep dry absorbent materials nearby in case of a spill.
6. **Save the Swales:** Keep swales mowed and clear of blockages. *NEVER* fill in a swale.
7. **Storm Drains:** Keep drains free of debris and vegetation. *NEVER* put chemicals, lawn clippings, soil or other debris down the storm drain.

## Management Responsibilities

- Equipment maintenance: Designate a special area to drain and replace motor oil, coolant and other fluids where there are no connections to the storm drain.
- Education & Training: Provide opportunities for employees to learn more about proper best management practices and protecting our waterways.
- Chemical Storage: Be sure chemicals are stored properly, i.e. off the ground, out of the rain, etc. Have a hazardous materials response plan and be sure all employees are capable of implementing each phase of the plan.
- Use integrated pest management practices to reduce the need for chemicals.
- Train employees to properly inspect irrigation systems. Know your clients' watering days!
- Provide information to employees on invasive plants and proper plants for shoreline areas.
- Never allow an employee to remove shoreline vegetation without first determining the need for a permit.



