

# Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, paved areas, bare soil, and lawns into storm drains and ditches.

Ideally, it would be free of contaminants. In reality, stormwater runoff picks up pollutants such as animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, salt, oil and grease, soil and debris and transports them to waterways where they are discharged with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution.



## DID YOU KNOW?

You can identify a storm sewer by the open grates along roadways and within some low lying areas.

## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

- ◇ Never dump anything down storm drains.
- ◇ Use lawn and garden chemicals sparingly; sweep up any excess from driveways, sidewalks and roads.
- ◇ Repair vehicle leaks; cover spilled fluids with kitty litter then sweep into household waste.
- ◇ Pick-up after your pet and dispose of waste properly.
- ◇ Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- ◇ Keep grass clippings, leaves, litter and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.
- ◇ Direct downspouts onto grassy areas away from paved surfaces.
- ◇ Use a commercial car wash or wash your vehicle on the grass instead of the driveway.
- ◇ Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals in an approved manner.

### Other Helpful Resources

***Environmental Protection Agency***

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

***Department of Environmental Protection***

[www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)



## ILLICIT STORMWATER DISCHARGES



## Identifying & Preventing Stormwater Pollution in Your Neighborhood.

**MANOR TOWNSHIP**

*950 West Fairway Drive*

*Lancaster, PA 17603*

*Phone: 717-397-4769 Fax: 717-397-7913*

[www.manortwp.org](http://www.manortwp.org)

## ILLICIT DISCHARGE

An illicit discharge or improper disposal is any discharge to a municipal storm sewer system such as storm drains, pipes and ditches that is not composed entirely of stormwater. Pollutants end up in storm sewer systems in a number of ways, many of which are easily preventable. In some instances, companies or residences have waste pipes tapped into stormwater pipes. In other cases, individuals use the storm drain inlets to dispose of various types of waste. Disposal of anything other than stormwater in storm sewers is illegal (except according to EPA's website) waters used for fire fighting operations.



### ILLICIT DISCHARGE & IMPROPER DISPOSAL FACTS & FIGURES

- A study in 1990 estimated that **40%** of do-it-yourself oil changes (amounting to **80 MILLION** gallons per year) were poured onto roads, driveways, yards or into storm sewers.
- Another study found **83%** of do-it-yourself antifreeze changes were flushed directly into storm drains or streets.
- Storm drains collect rainwater from driveways, roads & yards and directly transport to streams. They **DO NOT** go to a treatment plant.
- Anything you put in a storm drain ends up in a creek, river or water body—where you swim and fish.
- One quart of oil can contaminate up to **2 MILLION gallons** of drinking water.



### SIGNS OF AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE

The point in a storm sewer system where it empties into a body of water is a storm sewer outfall. It may be a pipe or ditch. If the outfall is flowing when there has been no recent rainfall, this may indicate an illicit discharge. Visible sewage waste, a foul odor, suds or other evidence of contamination, are indicators that an illicit discharge is contaminating the storm sewer. To report an illicit discharge, please call Manor Township at 717-397-4769.

### ILLICIT DISCHARGE EXAMPLES

- Spilled Chemicals
- Used oil & antifreeze
- Pet waste
- Construction materials
- Household Chemicals
- Septic Tank Seepage/Illegal Sanitary Connections
- Laundry Wastewater/Detergent
- Pesticides and Fertilizers
- Pool/Spa Discharge
- Improper Waste Oil Disposal/Auto Fluids Flushing (see left picture)
- Home Improvement Waste (concrete, paint)
- Trash & Garbage
- Lawn & yard trimmings