

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An Illicit discharge is defined as any discharge that enters the municipal storm sewer system that is not entirely composed of stormwater. An Illicit discharge occurs when chemicals, fertilizers, waste, and other pollutants contaminate ponds, lakes and storm drain systems. Florida International University has a zero tolerance for illicit discharge within the university.

How does an Illicit Discharge occur?

Illicit discharges can occur in two different manners. The first would be direct illicit discharge. This is when there is a physical connection between one source connecting to a storm sewer system. An example of this would be a pipe leading out to a storm drain while construction activities are taking place. Another example of direct illicit discharge is when excess chemicals or household products are being poured directly into the storm drain.

On the other hand, indirect illicit discharge would consist of sediment runoff, or nutrient and organic matter runoff with rainwater. An example of this is agricultural runoff. Agricultural runoff would involve pesticides and fertilizers coming in contact with rainwater and flowing out to our storm drains.

Examples of Illicit Discharge items that should not enter storm sewer systems.

- 1.) Household products
- 2.) Automotive fluids and oils
- 3.) Paints
- 4.) Cooking grease and oils
- 5.) Cement
- 6.) Pesticide
- 7.) Car Wash Waste Water

How Can You Help Prevent Illicit Discharge?

There are many ways in which you can help prevent illicit discharge. You can help by properly disposing of household chemicals such as cleaners, recycling batteries, oils, and excess paint when finished with projects. You can also help prevent illicit discharge by washing your vehicle on your grass instead of pavement, so the soil acts as a natural filter and use lawn and garden chemicals only as directed. Another way in which you can help prevent illicit discharge is by keeping an eye out for possible illicit discharges and reporting the activity to EH&S at 305-348-2622.