

Vehicle Service Maintenance & Illicit Discharge

Lets Talk about it:

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. Maintaining vehicles requires changing various parts and fluids, activities that can contribute to stormwater pollution through accidental spills or negligent practices.

FIU has a zero tolerance for illicit discharge within the university

FIU is dedicated to protecting our environment. By preventing illicit discharges, we ensure a healthier campus and community..

Illicit discharges can occur in two different manners.

Physical connection between one source connection to a storm drain, Ex. Automotive Fluid Oils, Carwash waste water. paints, etc.

Indirect Connection to the storm drain such as sediment runoff, or nutrient and organic matter runoff with rainwater.

Signs of Illicit Discharge

- Unusual water changes,
- Foul odors (e.g. sewage, rotten eggs, detergents, petroleum)
- Signs of oil discharge (muddy sheen)
- Discarded Drums or other Containers and Materials
- Physical Symptoms (burning of eyes, nose, skin)

Best Management Practices for FIU Lube

Spill Prevention: Use drip pans and absorbents to catch leaks while undergoing maintenance activities at FIU Lube

Proper Disposal: Collect and dispose of used fluids at designated facilities (Nearest Waste Oil Tank)

Regular Inspections: Check vehicles for leaks and repair promptly.

Common Illicit Discharge from Vehicle Maintenance

- Solvents (E.g., Degreasers, paint thinners)
- Antifreeze
- Brake Fluid and Brake Pad Dust
- Battery Acid
- Motor Oil
- Fuel(Gasoline, Diesel, Kerosene)
- Lubricating Grease



**Operations
and Safety**

Environmental Health & Safety

Don't Let It Drain: Prevent Illicit Discharges

Signs of Illicit Discharge Present

Failing to promptly clean up spills allows hazardous materials to be washed into storm drains during rainfall, contaminating local water bodies. Please refer to the images below for visual examples of illicit discharges that employees should be vigilant about



To learn more about FIU EHS's program : <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/environmental-compliance/index.html>