



Phase II: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An Illicit Discharge is the result of an illegal and/or improper waste discharge into storm drainage systems and receiving waters.

Illicit discharges may result from an illicit connection, illegal dumping of waste into a storm sewer, or any other discharge to the storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water, except for discharges allowed under an NPDES permit.

An example of an illicit connection would be the connection of a floor drain in a restaurant or automotive repair garage to a storm sewer. This would result in non-storm water wastes being flushed into the storm sewer system anytime the floors are washed in either facility. An example of illegal dumping would be discarding used motor oil down a storm sewer catch basin rather than properly recycling the waste oil.

The Stark County Health Department has developed a program to inspect for illicit discharges. Under the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program, Phase II Storm Water Specialists investigate all reports of suspicious materials in the storm sewers, creeks, or streams. In addition, the Storm Water Outfall Inspection Program inspects storm sewer outfalls on a rotational basis.

As inspections are completed, reports are generated indicating whether or not discharges were detected. When discharges are detected, dye testing and smoke testing are conducted to identify the source of the discharge. Once the source is located, legal and administrative activities are initiated requiring the owner of the property where the illicit discharge is located to eliminate the connection or to cease the illicit activity.

Illicit discharges can be reported to the Stark County Health Department 24 hours a day 7 days a week at (330) 493-9904. After hours you will be directed to an answering service.