

Illicit discharge warning signs

It is illegal to dump (discharge) anything other than stormwater into a storm discharge system (illicit discharge) or to connect any unauthorized pipe, ditch, or other manmade structure to a storm drainage system (illicit connection). Indications of an illicit discharge can include; staining, residues, oily substances, odors, abnormal flow in dry weather, murky water, or soapy suds.



Dry weather flow may be observed after prolonged periods without rain and there may be staining.



Suds often enter storm water systems as a result of improperly connected car washes or washing machines. Sude can aslo be the result of improper vehicle washing practices.



Oil/gas is recognized as a sheen on the water. Natural sheens may be differentiated from oil/gas sheen by breaking up the sheen with a stick. Natural sheens will remain serparated and have sharp edges while oil/gas sheens will re-attach and form a solid sheet. Oil/gas can enter water bodies via storm water runoff (spills at gas stations, oil leaks on pavement and illegal dumping).



Sanitary sewage may be present if there is black staining inside the drainage pipe; visible evidence of sanitary waste (such as toilet paper); or opaque or gray water. Sewage may originate from septic tank overflow pipes or improperly disposed waste from travel trailers