What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge to a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is any discharge not composed entirely of storm water.

See below a chapter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on illicit discharges:

- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: A Guidance Manual

For the full manual:

- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination A Guidance Manual for Program Development and Technical Assessments

Typical sources of illicit discharges:

- Dumping of oil, paint, solvents, etc.
- Failing septic system discharges.
- Floor drain or sump pump connections with cleanup, laundry or other grey water discharges.
- Draining chlorinated swimming pools.
- Dumpster drains.

Problem:

The storm sewers or ditches that pollutants discharge to **DO NOT** treat the pollutants and they flow directly to the nearest stream.

Signs of an Illicit Discharge

A flowing discharge into or from a ditch or storm sewer pipe during dry weather (3 days or more of no rainfall).

Signs That a Discharge May be an Illicit Discharge

Odor; oily sheen; dead plants, animals or fish; floatables (i.e., toilet paper) and color.

What to Do

If you see a discharge you suspect is an illicit discharge, PLEASE inform the Wayne County Emergency Management Agency at (330) 262-9817 OR inform the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District at (330) 263-5376.

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

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