



## YORK TOWNSHIP MS4

# FACT SHEET: ILLICIT DISCHARGE

An illicit discharge is “any discharge that is not composed entirely of storm-water” (Environmental Protection Agency). Since storm sewer systems in our area transport water directly into our waterbodies, it is important that stormwater is as clean as possible. The result of untreated illicit discharges includes high levels of pollutants including heavy metals, toxins, oil and grease, nutrients, etc. entering our waterbodies. These pollutants degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health. York Township is committed to reducing pollutants in our waterbodies. By reducing illicit discharges, we keep our waters clean and healthy.



*Oily substances are a sure sign that an illicit discharge has occurred.*

### Detection:

Signs of an illicit discharge can include (but are not limited to):

- \* Staining/Residues
- \* Suds
- \* Oily substances
- \* Odors
- \* Cloudy waters
- \* Abnormal flow during dry weather periods

## FAST FACTS

- \* **Storm sewers drain directly to:**  
*Local waterbodies such as lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands*
- \* **The most common illicit discharge from homes is:**  
*Yard waste, including leaves, grass clippings, and fertilizers*
- \* **York Township Illicit Discharge Hotline:**  
*717-741-3861 x115*

### Common Sources:

Illicit discharges come in many forms. Often times it is our every-day actions which cause damage to local waters. Common illicit discharges include:

- \* Yard waste
- \* De-icing materials
- \* Wash water from construction sites
- \* Motor oil
- \* Pet waste
- \* Gasoline
- \* Paint
- \* Pesticides



*Inlet placards help remind residents not to dump anything into storm drains.*

## How to Prevent Illicit Discharges

Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep pollutants from entering the water. BMPs vary based on activity. Below are a list of activities that landowners can do to prevent illicit discharges:

- \* Do not dump any substances into the storm sewer inlets or bodies of water
- \* Rake leaves and grass clippings from lawns and deposit in a compost facility
- \* Store materials that could pollute indoors in waterproof containers that will not rust
- \* Wash vehicles at a designated facility
- \* Recycle and re-use oil filters
- \* Do not top off vehicles when filling up the gas tank
- \* Recycle chemicals at a local collection center



*It is important to keep grass clippings away from storm drains so they don't enter the storm sewer system.*



*York Township Volunteers work hard to install stormwater inlet placards at various storm drains throughout the Township.*

## What does York Township do about Illicit Discharges?

York Township is regulated by a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). As part of this permit, the Township is required to develop, implement, and enforce an illicit discharge detection and elimination program. Some of the ways the Township addresses illicit discharges include:

- \* Sampling flowing discharges for pollutants to locate problem areas and sources
- \* Engaging the public through activities while providing educational opportunities
- \* Providing an Illicit Discharge Hotline to streamline illicit discharge concerns from Township residents and businesses
- \* Enforcing Section 701 of the Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance titled "Prohibited Discharges and Connections".

## What Can You do to Help?

If you think you're observing an illicit discharge, please utilize the illicit discharge hotline and contact the MS4 Program Coordinator: 717-741-3861 x115

If the illicit discharge originates from an area of active earth disturbance, contact the York County Conservation District: 717-840-7430

