



## Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

### Fact Sheet

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as “...any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater...” with some exceptions. These exceptions include discharges from NPDES-permitted industrial sources and discharges from fire-fighting activities. Illicit discharges are considered “illicit” because MS4s are not designed to accept, process, or discharge such non-stormwater wastes.

Illicit discharges result in untreated discharges that contribute to high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving waterbodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in EPA studies to be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health (USEPA, <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/upload/fact2-5.pdf>).

Some sources of illicit discharge include:

- Sanitary wastewater
- Sediment from construction site runoff
- Car wash wastewater
- Landscape waste
- Paints, solvents
- Used oil, grease
- Cleaning products
- Spills from accidents
- Illegal connections to the storm sewer system



Laundry, washwater



Petroleum, oil, solvents



Organic material



Sediment from construction



Illegal dumping



Washwater, chemical



Concrete, mortar rinse water