



**If you don't
drink it,
don't
dump it...**

Unacceptable
discharge includes:

- Yard Waste
- Pet Waste
- Waste Oil
- Excess Fertilizer
- Excess Herbicides & Pesticides
- Other Unusual Items Sometimes Found in Storm Drains
 - Lawn Mowers
 - Furniture
 - Kids Toys
 - Balls & Sporting Equipment
 - Old Automotive Parts
 - Dead Animals
 - Illegally Dumped Chemicals
 - Construction Materials (Concrete, Bricks, Lumber, etc.)



What do I do if I find an illicit discharge or illegal dumping?

Not only are illicit discharges and illegal dumping bad for the environment, they are illegal under the City's ordinances.

Contact the City 912.826.5996

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Everything that goes
into our storm drains
makes its way to
our streams, rivers
and reservoirs...

and into what we
drink...



KNOW where it goes...



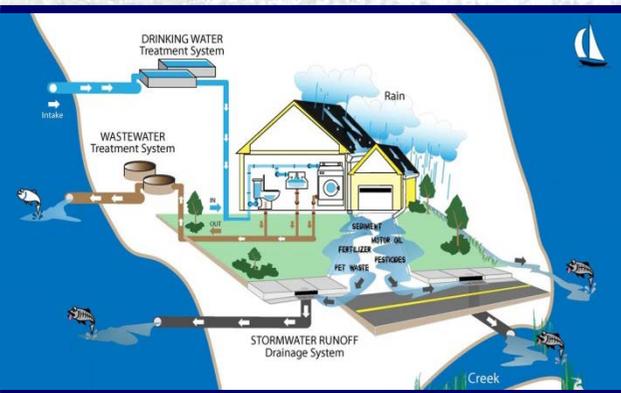


What is stormwater runoff?

Ever so often, nature cleans the land of accumulated materials that are put on the ground. We call this cleaning, rain. When it rains, stormwater runs over yards, streets, roads, highways, parking lots, parks and playgrounds, carrying with it everything in its path, including debris and pollutants. All the debris and pollutants that were picked up by the stormwater runoff, end up in your lakes and streams.

What is an illicit discharge or connection?

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of rain water or groundwater. Examples include dumping of motor vehicle fluids, household hazardous wastes, restaurant wastes, or any other non-stormwater waters into a stormwater system. An illicit connection is the discharge or pollutants or non-stormwater materials into a storm sewer system via a pipe or other direct connection. Sources of illicit connections may include sanitary sewer taps, wash water for laundromats or carwashes, and other similar sources.



How does the City know about these items?

Under the Federal Clean Water Act (a law passed by the United States Congress), the City must perform periodic inspections of its storm drains and ditches to determine if items are being dumped in the drain system. This is performed as part of annual inspections and testing requirements.

What is the purpose of the inspections?

The City is required to implement an Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Program under their EPA mandated stormwater permit. The purpose is to find and remove illicit discharges and illegal dumping.

Are there any exceptions?

Other than rainwater what can be discharged into storm drains and creeks without being considered an illicit discharge or illegal dumping?

- Water line flushing or other potable water sources
- Landscape irrigation or lawn watering
- Uncontaminated pumped groundwater
- Foundation or footing drains
- Crawl space pumps
- Air conditioning condensation
- Noncommercial washing of vehicles
- Swimming pools (if de-chlorinated – typically less than one PPM chlorine);
- Firefighting activities



How do illicit discharges and illegal dumping affect me?

Even if you live at the top of the hill, illicit discharges and illegal dumping affect you. Most storm drains lead to ditches which lead to streams which lead to rivers and reservoirs. Many communities in Georgia depend on surface water sources of drinking water. If you drink water from one of these water systems, it may have pulled water from a river or lake that can be contaminated by illicit discharges or illegal dumping. Additionally, Georgians live and play in rivers and lakes throughout the state. When was the last time that you fished or boated in one of Georgia's water ways. Clean water benefits not just the environment but each of us as well.

Do illicit discharges and illegal dumping cost me?

In addition to additional treatment costs to water systems, it costs local communities by having to clean these materials from storm drains. Storm drain cleaning can be very costly and time consuming so keeping materials out of the storm drain can reduce costs to tax payers significantly.

