

# Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

**You are the solution to stormwater pollution!**

The City of Rochester is working to eliminate illegal discharges of pollutants into its storm sewer system. Minnesota's public waters provide recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating and fishing which can all be negatively affected by the pollutants stormwater carries.



Illicit discharge entering the Zumbro River

**Need More Information?** 

To learn about proper disposal methods for liquids such as paint, scan the QR code or visit:

[olmstedcounty.gov/residents/garbage-recycling/hazardous-waste-facility](http://olmstedcounty.gov/residents/garbage-recycling/hazardous-waste-facility)



## What is an Illicit Discharge?

An **illicit discharge** is any pollutant discharged to a storm sewer system that is harmful to the health or welfare of people, the environment, wildlife or surface waters. Illicit discharges include:

- Sediment washing from construction sites
- Chemical or oil spills
- Sewage from broken sewer lines or overflow from private septic systems
- Pesticides, herbicides, or wash water from paint clean up and concrete washout

Illicit discharges could be **intermittent** – only occurring a few minutes per day or a few days per year, **continuous** – occurring almost daily, or **transitory** – only occurring once.



**Which activities are not considered illicit discharges?** Water line flushing, residential car washing or draining swimming pools that are dechlorinated (left to rest for seven or more days after treatment), firefighting and lawn watering are not considered illicit.

## How Does a Small Amount Affect the Environment?

It only takes a very small amount of many types of chemicals to harm fish, plants and other aquatic organisms. For example, just 1 teaspoon of mercury is enough to contaminate more than 13 Olympic-sized swimming pools of drinking water. Another example is discharging concrete washout into a lake or stream; this action can kill fish due to increases in pH.

Most of these chemicals enter our water systems through improper or accidental disposal outside.

## What Do I Do if I Suspect an Illicit Discharge is Present?

If you observe an illicit discharge, notify:

- City of Rochester Stormwater Hotline at 507-328-2440 (M-F 8am-5pm)
- Police Non-Emergency Dispatch at 507-328-6800 (evenings & weekends)

In your report, provide:

- Time, date, and location
- Description of material
- Your contact information

