



STORMWATER RUNOFF AND WATER POLLUTION

The federal Clean Water Act requires municipalities across the United States to take steps to reduce polluted stormwater runoff and to minimize the discharge of pollutants into storm drain systems. We all drink water, so we are all affected when our water is polluted.

Rainwater either seeps into the ground or “runs off”, making its way into streams, creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans. Stormwater runoff is unfiltered, untreated rainwater that flows across impervious surfaces, such as roads, parking lots, driveways and roofs into the storm drain systems that are comprised of ditches, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, channels and other similar means of collecting and conveyance that drain directly into these bodies of water.

On its way, stormwater runoff can pick up and carry substances like pesticides, fertilizers, oil, soap, sediment from construction, bare soil, agricultural land, pet waste, grass clippings and leaves depositing these harmful pollutants into bodies of water in sufficient quantities. In addition to rainwater, other activities like lawn watering, car washing, and malfunctioning septic tanks can also put pollutants onto the land that get carried away to streams and creeks. These streams and creeks feed into rivers, lakes and the ocean.

To reduce and prevent the pollution of our waterways, citizens are urged to report spills, illicit discharges and illegal dumping.

SPILLS are the accidental or intentional release of substances into the environment, such as chemicals, oils, or hazardous materials. Other examples are typical of construction projects like concrete washout; tracking of sedimentation onto roadways; ineffective or no erosion control measures in place.

ILLICIT DISCHARGES are discharges into the storm sewer system that are not composed entirely of stormwater (unless allowed under a TPDES permit). Some examples of illicit discharges include industrial process water, commercial car wash wastewater, sanitary sewer flow, wash-down of loading areas, dumping of liquid waste, chlorinated pool water, water softener brine backwash, used oil and other fluids.

ILLEGAL DUMPING is the disposal of litter or solid waste to any place other than a landfill or other approved waste disposal site. Illegal dumping typically involves items that are difficult to dispose of including tires, landscape waste, construction debris, appliances, furniture, household garbage, chemicals, batteries, and fluorescent lights. In addition to water pollution, illegal dumping leads to health and safety concerns for both local citizens and the environment and it attracts rodents, snakes, mosquitoes, and other pests.

Report illegal dumping, spills, suspicious construction activities and illicit discharges by completing and emailing the form below to cg.permits@att.net or call City Hall at 210-648-4923. For emergencies, call 911.

REPORT OF SPILL, ILLICIT DISCHARGE, ILLEGAL DUMPING

NAME: _____

CONTACT PHONE NO: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE OBSERVED: _____

TIME (HOUR/MINUTE) OBSERVED: _____

DID YOU OBSERVE THE POTENTIAL VIOLATION: _____

ADDRESS/LOCATION WHERE ISSUE IS OCCURING: _____

WHO OR WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL VIOLATOR OR SOURCE OF THE ISSUE:

PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE: _____

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All of the information you provide is confidential and will only be used to pursue an investigation of the issue you reported. However, if you do not provide your contact information, we will not be able to contact you for any additional information, if needed, to proceed with a full investigation and/or to notify you of the status of your complaint.