

## How do you report illicit discharges?

- Call 919-560-SWIM to report illicit discharges.
- Staff will investigate and determine whether or not a violation occurred.
- If a violation did occur, the City will take actions to try and stop the the violation from happening again.
- All calls can be anonymous if you wish.

### Information needed to report:

Call 919-560-SWIM

1. What happened
2. Where it happened; nearest street intersection or address (and business name, if a business was involved)
3. Date and time of event
4. Your name and phone number (optional)

## City of Durham Public Works Department *Stormwater & GIS Services*



## Protecting Streams and Lakes From Pollution

### *Reporting Illicit Discharges & Surface Water Pollution in Durham*



101 City Hall Plaza  
Durham, NC 27701  
919-560-SWIM  
StormwaterQuality@durhamnc.gov

For more information about  
illicit discharges, water pollution,  
and stormwater, please visit  
[www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater](http://www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater)  
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## What is an illicit discharge?

Illicit means illegal. An illicit discharge is any disposal of any substance other than stormwater into the stormwater system. An illicit connection is any connection of wastewater into the stormwater system. An example of this might be a connection from a bathroom or a washing machine. The accidental spill or leak of an unsafe substance is also an illicit discharge.

## How does this cause water pollution?

The stormwater system collects all the rainwater that runs off hard surfaces, like pavement and rooftops. This stormwater runoff flows along the curb and gutter and then drains into a basin or an inlet. The stormwater and any pollutants it has picked up go to the nearest body of water. Anything that enters the stormwater system besides rainfall is considered an illicit discharge. This violates the City of Durham stormwater ordinance.

Water pollution can damage fish and wildlife. It can also make activities such as swimming and fishing unsafe. Keeping pollution out of stormwater protects public health and the environment.



## Does it count?



### Illicit discharges include the following examples:

- Paint spills
- Soapy wash water
- Gasoline or motor oil spills
- Sewage
- Grease

### Exceptions to the rule

These discharges do not significantly impact water quality so are not considered illicit discharges.

- Flows from fire fighting
- Residential and charity car washing
- Dechlorinated pool water

## What happens to violators?

First time offenders and repeat offenders can receive large fines.

### Illicit Discharges

1. First time offenders can be served a civil penalty for violating the City Ordinance depending on the amount of the discharge. If the discharge is equal to or less than 5 gallons, the violator can be fined up to \$1,000.00. This fine can continue for each day the discharge continues.
2. If the discharge is greater than 5 gallons, the violator can be fined up to \$5,000.00; this fine can also continue for each day the discharge continues.
3. For repeat offenders, the penalty will double the amount that was previously fined up to \$25,000.00 each day.

### Illicit Connections

First time offenders can be fined up to \$5,000.00 for each day the City Ordinance is being violated. Repeat offenders can be fined up to \$25,000.00 per day.