

## What is Storm Water Pollution?

The stormwater drainage system collects all the rain that runs off of hard surfaces such as pavement and rooftops. This runoff, called stormwater flows along the curb and gutter and then into a storm drain.

After entering the storm drain, stormwater is routed to the nearest lake, pond, or river. Anything that enters the stormwater drainage system besides rainfall is considered an illicit discharge and is a violation of the City of Sebring's Illicit Discharge Ordinance.

Grease, oils and detergents have potential to cause fish kill and other biological degradation and restrict recreational activities such as swimming and fishing. The purpose of the Illicit Discharge Ordinance is to protect public health, safety and welfare by controlling pollution in our waterways.

Do **your** part to protect our environment from these types of pollution. Implement these best management practices today!



To schedule a visit to discuss preventative measures at your location, please contact:

**City of Sebring**

**Public Works Department**

**(863)471-5115**

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To report an illicit discharge, please call:

**Code Enforcement**

**(863)471-5102**

You **CAN** make a Difference!



Protecting Our  
Waters From  
Stormwater Pollution

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## Preventing Illegal Discharges from Automotive Service Businesses



City of Sebring

Public Works Department

# What is Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain system.

An illicit connection is any connection which allows non-stormwater to enter the storm drain system including sewage, wastewater and wash water.



# Good Working Practices to Follow

- **Materials and Waste Handling:**  
**DO NOT** pour liquid waste into floor drains, sinks, outdoor storm drain inlets. **DO NOT** dump mop water outside. Pour into floor drain or sink for treatment.
- **Proper Storage and Handling of Hazardous Waste:**  
Cover the work area to limit exposure to rain. Use secondary containment when storing batteries and hazardous liquids; keep liquid wastes segregated.
- **Cleaning Auto Parts:**  
Minimize use of solvents. Clean parts without using solvents whenever possible, or use water-based solvents. Clean greasy hands with a water-less hand cleaner.
- **Cleaning Up Spills:**  
Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work area. Use dry methods for spill clean up, i.e. sweeping.
- **More Good Housekeeping:**  
Check gas pumps for spills. Keep dry absorbent materials near the pumps in case of a spill.
- **Washing Vehicles:**  
Ensure the car wash detergent and wax are only used inside of the wash bay and the wastewater is captured and sent to the sanitary sewer.

# Management Responsibilities

- **Plan Your Workspace:**  
Designate a special area to drain and replace motor oil, coolant and other fluids where there are no connections to the storm drain.
- **Maintenance:**  
Contact a hazardous waste hauler to dispose of saturated absorbents.
- **Have A Plan:**  
Have a hazardous materials response plan and be sure all employees are capable of implementing each phase of the plan.
- **Know Your Area:**  
Check off-site drainage patterns. (Where is water coming onto and leaving the site?) Reduce flow by use of open vegetated swales and other nonstructural measures.
- **Parking Lots:**  
If cleaning the parking lot is necessary, install proper measures to ensure wastewater and detergents **DO NOT** enter the storm drain.
- **Spills:**  
Report any spill immediately to the City of Sebring. When reporting a spill, be sure to include the location, date, time, type of spill and measures currently being taken to mitigate any damage.

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Preventing Illegal  
Discharges from  
Food Service  
Businesses



City of Sebring  
Public Works Department

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An illicit connection is any connection which allows non-stormwater to enter the storm drain system including sewage, wastewater and wash water.



# Good Working Practices to Follow

- Pour all wash water into the utility sink. **DO NOT** pour wash water down the storm drain.
- Keep the lid to the dumpster closed so that rain can't get in and leak out as garbage juice.
- Sweep around the dumpster daily and inspect for leaks.
- Dispose of grease or oil properly. **DO NOT** dump down the storm drain or sanitary sewer. Check grease trap regularly for overflows.
- Clean mops, mats, oily vents, trash cans, etc. in the utility sink or designated wash areas, **not in the parking lot. DO NOT** let this wash water flow down to the storm drain.
- Never hose-down a spill. Use dry clean-up methods for spills and keep absorbent materials handy (e.g. dry mops, paper towels, kitty litter, etc.)
- Keep cleaning materials out of the rain and place in a covered area that is designed to prevent runoff.
- Mobile vendors should check carts and vehicles for leaks daily and repair immediately.

# Management Responsibilities

- Contact a hazardous waste hauler to dispose of grease bins.
- Have a hazardous materials response plan and be sure all employees are capable of implementing each phase of the plan.
- Check offsite drainage patterns. (Where is water coming onto and leaving the site?) Reduce flow by use of open vegetated swales and other non-structural measures.
- If cleaning the parking lot is necessary, install proper measures to ensure wastewater and detergents do not enter the storm drainage system.
- Report any spill immediately to the City of Sebring Public Works Department.
- When reporting a spill be sure to include the location, date, time, type of spill and measures currently being taken to mitigate any damage.



Keep lid closed to avoid garbage juice!

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## Preventing Illegal Discharges from Landscaping Businesses



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Public Works Department

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# Good Working Practices to Follow

- **Mowing:**  
Mow at the correct height for the type of sod: St. Augustine and Bahia at 3-4 inches, Bermuda and Centipede at 1.5 inches.
- **Grass Clippings and Leaves:**  
**DO NOT** blow lawn clippings and leaves into the street or down the storm drain. Blow back onto the lawn or into a bed as free mulch and fertilizer.
- **Fertilize Wisely:**  
Minimize use of fertilizers. Use a slow release with a low or 0 middle number (phosphorus). **DO NOT** fertilize when a large rain event is expected and **NEVER** within 10 feet of the water's edge.
- **Good Housekeeping:**  
Don't leave excess fertilizer in the street or driveway. Sweep it up or blow back into the yard.
- **Cleaning Up Spills:**  
Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work area. Use dry methods for spill cleanup, i.e. sweeping. Keep dry absorbent materials nearby in case of a spill.
- **Save the Swales:**  
Keep swales mowed and clear of blockages. **NEVER** fill in a swale.
- **Storm Drains:**  
Keep swales mowed and clear of debris and vegetation. Never put chemicals, lawn clippings, soil or other debris down the storm drain.



# Management Responsibilities

- **Equipment Maintenance:**  
Designate a special area to drain and replace motor oil, coolant and other fluids where there are no connections to the storm drain.
- **Education and Training:**  
Provide opportunities for employees to learn more about proper best management practices and protecting our waterways.
- **Chemical Storage:**  
Be sure chemicals are stored properly, i.e. off the ground, out of the rain, etc. Have a hazardous materials response plan and be sure all employees are capable of implementing each phase of the plan.
- **Pest Management:**  
Use integrated pest management practices to reduce the need for chemicals.
- **Water Management:**  
Train employees to properly inspect irrigation systems. Know your clients' watering days!
- **Respect the Shoreline:**  
Provide the information to employees on invasive plants and proper plants for shoreline area. **NEVER** allow and employee to remove shoreline vegetation without first determining the need for a permit.