

Stormwater Complaints and Illicit Discharge Reporting

Please call (707) 441-4203 to report illicit discharges or spills 24 hours a day. Be prepared to provide information on the location and characteristics of the discharge.

What is an Illicit Discharge?

Any non-stormwater discharge that may be directly or indirectly entering the Storm Drain System

What counts as the Storm Drain System?

The Storm Drain System also known as the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), encompasses roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains.

How can I prevent an illicit discharge?

Prevent illicit discharges by utilizing best management practices (BMPs) around your work area such as fiber rolls, sand bags, or gravel bags, or, divert uncontaminated runoff to landscaping or other pervious areas. If discharge leaves your work area, protect the nearest storm drain inlet with sand bags, fabric filters, and/or wattles. For more information about reducing your watershed impact and preventing illicit discharges in specific settings see the [main stormwater page](#).

The following illicit discharges should be reported as soon as possible.

Illicit Discharge Examples:

- **Paint**
- **Sewage**
- **Oil**
- **Construction waste water**
- **Any unknown substance**
- **Any hazardous substance**
- **Solid Waste**

Allowable discharges include the following. These activities should still employ best management practices (BMPs) to the extent feasible and not use any solvents or heavy chemicals without additional BMPs to prevent contaminated runoff from leaving your work area. If there is still contaminated discharge from these activities, they will be treated as an illicit discharge.

Allowable Discharges

- **Individual Residential Car Washing using BMPs or directing wash water to landscaping or pervious areas**
- **Firefighting discharge**
- **Diverted streams**