

It is illegal to dispose of yard debris, pet waste, chemicals, oil, and trash into the stormwater system.

While many people are not aware that their daily activities can produce illicit discharges, others deliberately dump pollutants or have illegal pipe connections into the stormdrain system. Regardless of whether the source is intentional or unintentional, it is illegal to dispose of anything into a storm drain. Continuing its commitment to prevent stormwater pollution, West Miami City Council enacted the Illicit Discharge Ordinance, which establishes rules and provides for penalties to prohibit illicit discharges and connections into the stormwater drainage system.

Common practices that contribute to stormwater pollution are listed below, followed by tips for corrective action.

Practice Leading to Illicit Discharge	Healthy Practice
Blowing grass clippings and leaves into the streets or gutters [pictured above]	Blow leaves back onto lawn, compost, or dispose of at a recycling facility.
Changing car oil or fluids in the driveway — could result in spills that could enter the stormwater system. Recycle used motor oil, clean up leaks and spills using dry methods, dispose of properly. Do not hose down!	Recycle used motor oil, clean up leaks and spills using dry methods, dispose of properly. Do not hose down!
Hosing down impervious areas or washing your car in your driveway	Dry sweep and dispose of debris properly. Wash your car on the lawn or at a commercial car wash.
Failing to pick up after pet — allows pet waste to enter the stormwater system	Scoop the pet waste, bag it and place it in the trash.
Improper paint, gasoline and chemical storage	Keep containers sealed, do not store outside where they may be exposed to rainwater.
Fertilizers and pesticides — overusing allows runoff to collect residues	Use sparingly. Avoid application if the weather forecast calls for rain.
Yard litter	Clean up and properly dispose of yard waste, trash, food wrappers, beverage containers, cigarette butts, etc.
Non-target irrigation	Aim sprinkler heads properly. Avoid watering the sidewalks and streets.

(Those found in violation could be subject to fines, penalties, code enforcement prosecution, and any other punishment described in City Code.)

NPPDES Stormwater Program
901 SW 62nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33144



Residents Guide to

Recognizing and Reporting Illicit Discharges and Connections



The City of Melbourne prohibits the entry of illicit discharges into the municipal storm drain system.

By knowing the City's stormwater pollution laws, you can become part of the solution in restoring the Miami River and other community waters. If you have any questions, feel free to give Stormwater Utility, which is a part of the Engineering Department, a call at **305-266-4214**.

Best Management Practices

What is an Illicit Discharge?

Any pollutant which is not on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit exemption list is considered an illicit discharge and should be reported. Here are just a few examples:

- Blowing leaves, grass clippings or other debris into the street that will allow the pollutants to enter a storm drain.
- Dumping any substance (pet waste, motor oil, etc.) directly into the storm drain, or curb inlet.
- Hosing down sidewalks or parking lots which allows polluted water to enter a storm drain, or curb inlet.
- A construction site without a silt fence around disturbed land which would allow dirt or debris to enter a storm drain, or curb inlet.
- Accidental spills arising from incidents such as traffic accidents.
- Abandoned waste (illegal dumping) in barrels, containers or buckets. The most common abandoned wastes are motor oil, human feces, paint, solvents and pesticides.

Remember "Only Rain Down the Drain"

If it is not rain or exempted in the list below, it is an illicit discharge and should be reported. If you are unsure whether a discharge is exempt, report it.



Exemptions (Discharges from the following sources are exempt)

- Water line flushing • Flushing of reclaimed water lines
- Street cleaning • Construction dust control
- Landscape irrigation • Diverted stream flows
- Rising ground waters • Foundation and footing drains
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges
- Uncontaminated ground water infiltration (*as defined at 40 CFR 35.205(20)*) • Uncontaminated pumped ground water
- Discharges from potable water sources
- Air conditioning condensate • Irrigation water • Springs
- Lawn watering • Individual residential car washing
- Flows from riparian habitat and wetlands
- Discharges or flows from emergency firefighting activities and emergency response activities done in accordance with an adopted spill response/action plan

What is an Illicit Connection?

Illicit connections may carry pollutants to the stormwater drainage system by make-shift pipes, hoses or any other man-made conveyance that is connected to the storm drain system.

If you are unsure whether a connection is illicit, report it.

The Drainage System

The City of West Miami stormwater drainage systems cover over 3/4 of a square mile of land and consists of over 600 catch basins that feed into a network of under-ground pipes and tunnels. Many of these pipes lead directly to the Miami River.

This system, which was designed to quickly route rain-water off city streets, does not ALWAYS get treated before it is discharged into our local water bodies. Anything built prior to 1980, most likely does not have stormwater treatment. Treatment refers to the ponds and other design elements that remove pollutants from entering into our local water bodies.

Illicit discharges into the stormwater drainage system pose a serious health threat to swimmers, boaters, and marine life. In addition, they have a negative economic impact on tourism and on our overall quality of life.

By identifying sources of illicit discharges and connections, potentially harmful stormwater runoff can be eliminated.

Together, we can make a difference by keeping our local water bodies free of pollution and debris. Thank you for doing your part!

