



Construction Site Activities

Common sources of pollutants from construction sites include: sediments from soil erosion; construction materials and waste (e.g. paint, solvents, concrete, drywall); over-spray from water tenders for dust control; and hosing down of spilled oil, fuel, and other fluids from construction vehicles and heavy equipment.

Signs of Illicit Discharge

During your routine activities, look for the following indications of ongoing or intermittent illicit discharges:

- Staining, discoloration or structural damage on city street or gutter
- Unusual vegetative growth
- Unpleasant or chemical odors emanating from catch basins
- Temporary or suspicious looking hoses, PVC pipes or connections discharging directly into a catch basin

Photos (top to bottom): 1) Illicit discharge from washing down cement truck chute. 2) Erosion and runoff from a construction site. 3) Inadequate containment at a construction site resulting in runoff into the street. 4) Unusual vegetative growth indicates a constant discharge. 5) Restaurant worker dumping floor wash water from bucket into the gutter.

This guide is intended as a supplement to the Stormwater Program video **Make the Call**.

As a City employee, it is your responsibility to report any illicit discharges, connections or activity you may encounter in your duties.

For more information on how you can prevent stormwater pollution, visit us at:

www.lacity.org/san/swmd

Or call the

Stormwater Hotline
(800) 974-9794



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Brochure design: Oscar Amaro

Make the Call

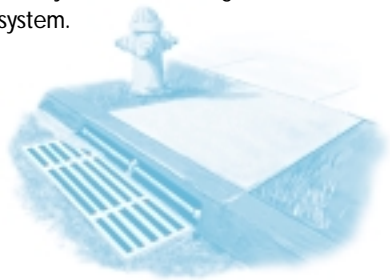


Recognizing and Reporting Illicit Discharges and Connections



A Publication of the
City of Los Angeles Stormwater Program

The City of Los Angeles' Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance Section 64.70 of the L.A.M.C. prohibits the entry of illicit discharges into the municipal storm drain system.



The City's storm drain system consists of over 45,000 catch basins that feed into a 1,500 mile network of underground pipes and tunnels. This system, which was designed to quickly route rainwater off city streets, does not treat or filter runoff before it is discharged into the Santa Monica and San Pedro Bays. The Bureau of Sanitation maintains this system by cleaning catch basins at least once a year.

Illicit discharges into this system pose a serious health threat to swimmers and marine life, as well as have a negative economic impact on tourism and on the overall quality of life. Such discharges are in violation of the City's Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance.

By identifying sources of illicit discharges, potentially harmful stormwater runoff can be eliminated. If you observe any illicit discharge or connection during the course of your daily activities, contact the Stormwater Hotline at (800) 974-9794.

Illicit Discharges

Any discharge that is not exempted, conditionally exempted or authorized by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board through a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is considered illicit.

The following is a list of exempt and conditionally exempt discharges:

- Flows from riparian habitats or wetlands
- Diverted stream flows
- Flows from natural springs
- Rising ground waters
- Uncontaminated ground-water infiltration
- Runoff from emergency fire fighting activities
- Runoff from lawn and landscape irrigation
- Water line flushing
- Discharge from potable water sources
- Runoff from foundation or footing drains
- Air conditioning condensate
- Irrigation water
- Water from crawl space pumps
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges
- Discharges from individual residential car washing
- Discharges from non-profit car washing, and
- Runoff from street and sidewalk washing

Illicit Connections

Illicit discharges may be carried by a make-shift pipe, hose or man-made conveyance that is connected to the storm drain system. Such connections are also considered illicit.



Abandoned Waste

Waste products in barrels, containers or buckets, are often found abandoned on city streets, sidewalks or alleys. These can be a potential source of illicit discharge as they can rupture or break upon exposure to the environment, or if accidentally or intentionally hit by ongoing pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Abandoned waste can also be a significant health hazard for residents and passersby's who come in contact with the waste.

The most commonly abandoned wastes are motor oil, human feces, paint, solvents, or pesticides.

Accidental or Unintentional Spills

Illicit discharges may arise from incidents such as traffic accidents or spills from the receiving or shipping of goods in an industrial facility.

Illicit discharges may also be a result of torrential rain causing sewage system overflow to spill into the streets.

Deliberate Discharges

A deliberate discharge can be runoff generated from fluid leaks coming from an automotive repair shop, or the washing down of paved or concrete surfaces at a restaurant or other commercial facility.

Photos (top to bottom): 1) Oil drums abandoned in alleys are frequent targets of "barrel-tipping." 2) Gasoline spill from tanker truck accident discharges into the storm drain system. 3) Toxic chemicals and leaking fluids from an auto body repair shop. 4) Containers of paint waste and solvents abandoned in alley. 5) Worker hosing down blood and waste from poultry plant. 6) Food suppliers generate illicit discharges by hosing waste and debris off of equipment and into storm drains.