

Illicit Connections



Illicit connections - such as sump pump outflow lines, washing machine outflow hoses or any plumbing from indoor drains (floor drains, toilets, sinks, etc.) - can be a source of pollutants or a transporter of pollutants already on the ground. Illicit connections can contribute to water pollution if proper methods are not used to control, contain and capture the water. These pollutants are hazardous to San Diego residents and toxic to our environment.



An illicit connection is any man-made physical connection, such as a pipe, hose, drain or other device, that conveys a discharge to the storm drain system. Illicit connections include outdoor pipes that discharge grey water (i.e. laundry rinse water), waste water or irrigation water. All indoor pipes and drains must be connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Illicit Discharges

An illicit discharge refers to the disposal of any material, whether liquid or solid, into the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of rain water, except permitted discharges under San Diego Municipal Code §43.0305. Common examples of liquid-based illicit discharges include irrigation runoff, air conditioning condensate, wash water (from vehicles, mop buckets, outdoor sinks, pressure washing or hosing, etc.) sump discharges, melting ice, leaks from dumpsters and cooking oil.

Common examples of solid based illicit discharges include metal shavings from a machine shop, Styrofoam peanuts from a shipping company, flour from a bakery, food waste from a restaurant or grocery store, etc. Obtain all necessary permits and authorizations for wastewater disposal.



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to establish, use or maintain an illicit connection into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0306). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Evaluate Connections

Inspect your residence or business for illicit connections that may convey pollutants to the storm drain system.

- ◆ Identify all above ground pipes and hoses for possible illicit connection.
- ◆ Identify all floor drains (and other possible points of entry) that connect to pipes below the ground surface.
- ◆ Pay special attention to drains where hazardous materials are used or stored or in fueling areas, wash bays or industrial process areas.
- ◆ For each drain, identify the drain's final end point:
 - ◆ Review sewer or holding tank permits or building plans
 - ◆ Perform dye or smoke tests
 - ◆ Inspect the drain using a sewer pipe inspection camera

All unpermitted physical connections to the stormwater conveyance system shall be removed immediately.

Sump Pumps

A sump pump is a pump used to remove accumulated water, commonly found in basements or subterranean parking structures that were built below the water table. This water can contribute to water pollution if it is not properly monitored, permitted and disposed.

Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants - including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids - all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

