

## Remember...

- What we do on land affects the quality of water we drink and use in so many ways.
- May small sources of pollution add up to cause big water quality problems.
- Natural things such as soil, leaves, grass clippings and pet waste can cause water pollution.
- Waste dumped into storm sewers goes into our lakes, ponds and streams without treatment.
- Automobiles and other vehicles cause water pollution as well as air pollution.

## Please keep it clean!



**We all have an important part to play in keeping our water clean.**

## Who Should I contact about illicit dumping or suspicious discharges?

If you suspect or see an illicit discharge, please contact White Bear Township at 651-747-2750 to report your concern or fill out the stormwater illicit discharge form located on the Township's website [www.whitebeartownship.org](http://www.whitebeartownship.org). Staff will investigate the situation and determine whether or not a violation occurred. If a violation did occur, the Township will take the appropriate actions. This program cannot succeed without our residents participation.

### Information needed when reporting illicit discharges:

1. Location (address, nearest intersection, etc.)
2. Date and time of illicit discharge
3. Description of what happened
4. Your name and contact information for follow-up

**Please remember everyone can make a difference!**



*White Bear Township*

## *Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination*



*White Bear Township  
1281 Hammond Road  
White Bear Township, MN 55110*

## Dumping into storm drains is not just wrong - it's illegal!

It's illegal to dump or discharge waste or pollution in storm drains. A common misconception about storm sewers is that they go to a sewage treatment plant. This is not the case.

Storm sewers transport stormwater (rain and melting snow) to the nearest pond, lake, stream or wetland. Anything that enters a storm drain will go directly to the nearest body of water without treatment and may cause environmental damage.

## What is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is "any discharge into a stormwater system, river, stream or water body that is not composed entirely of stormwater". Some of the pollutants that fall into this category are:

- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings and leaves
- Household cleaners, paint, paint thinners and solvents
- Lawn and Garden Chemicals - weed killers, fertilizer, pesticides & herbicides
- Pet waste
- Pool chemicals



## What are some of the hazards that are associated with illicit discharge?

- Pollutants in illicit discharges include viruses and bacteria from pet waste, heavy metals, toxics and nutrients.
- Bacteria and oil can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards and close beaches.
- Nutrients from grass, leaves and soil contribute to the overgrowth of algae which can impact aquatic life.
- EPA studies show that pollutant levels from even small illicit discharges have been shown to be high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife and human health.

## What isn't an illicit discharge?

- Irrigation water
- Sump pump discharge
- Individual residential car washing

## What can you do to help?

- Be alert! Report any suspicious discharges.
- **Used oil, antifreeze, and batteries** can be recycled at a Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Site. Clean up any spills immediately — kitty litter or saw dust will absorb the spill. Be sure to sweep these up as well.
- Empty bottles of **household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals** should be disposed of according to label directions. If a container has the words **caution, warning, danger** or **poison** on the label and still has product inside, it does not belong in the trash, use the Ramsey County HHW site for safe disposal.
- Do not blow **grass clippings, leaves and mulch** in the street. Sweep them up if they do land there. Drop them off at a Ramsey County Yard Waste Site for proper disposal. Grass clippings, leaves and mulch left in the street end up washed into the storm sewers and have the potential to create algae blooms in our lakes, ponds and rivers.
- **Paints, paint thinner and solvents** can be taken to the Ramsey County HHW drop-off site. If you have a small amount of paint left over let it dry out completely and put it in the trash.
- Clean up your **pet waste** and dispose of it in the trash.

\*\*\*For Ramsey County HHW & Yard Waste locations, call 651-633-EASY(3279), answered 24/7 or visit [RamseyRecycles.com](http://RamseyRecycles.com).

