



Illicit Discharges Handout



How to recognize, detect, and report potential illicit discharges or construction site violations

Illicit Discharge Detection -- Important Take Home Points:

- There are many sources of pollution, which enter water bodies either directly or indirectly (normally through land use activities).
- Discharges vary with frequency, and differ in the threat they pose to the environment (e.g. dirtier, cleaner, etc).
- It's important to regularly observe outfalls or pipes and to make note of any observations, take pictures of anything suspicious, and document location of the problem. In most cases, there should be **NOTHING** coming out of pipes during dry weather.

What you can do:

- Regularly monitor outfalls/potential illicit discharges.
- Call Cheryl Nenn, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, at Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers (FMR) with any concerns at (414) 287-0207 ext. 29.
- Call your local municipality to report the problem; ask for the City Engineer. In Milwaukee call (414) 286-8162.
- Call the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) hotline at (800) TIP-WDNR (depending on problem, you will be directed to someone who can help).
- Become a citizen water quality volunteer; take water samples.

Monitoring Construction Sites – Important Take Home Points:

- Soil is the top pollutant in our waterways.
- Soil comes from a variety of sources including agricultural cropland and pasture, urban stormwater, and construction sites.
- Recent studies have shown that 1 acre of construction produces the same amount of sediment as 75 acres of cropland.
- Construction stormwater general permits are required under the Clean Water Act for disturbance of 1 acre of land or greater.
- Construction sites (greater than 1 acre) are required to have a permit, as well as both an erosion control plan and stormwater management plan. Sites must have these documents on site.
- All sites are required to have 3 best management practices: perimeter control; inlet protection; and tracking pads.
- Other important best management practices include: stabilizing the lot by protecting stockpiles, stabilizing the lot with matting, stabilizing the lot and drainage way by seeding/mulching; and spout protection. No dirt should be running off the site.

What you can do:

- If you see a potential violation, contact FMR at (414) 287-0207 ext. 29 or WDNR at (800) TIP-WDNR.
- Contact the municipality stormwater engineer or city engineer to report potential problems with construction site problems. In Milwaukee call (414) 286-8162.
- Regularly monitor construction sites in your neighborhood; keep your eyes open.
- Take pictures, and document dates and locations of problem construction sites.
- Ask to speak to foreman and request to see copies of erosion control plan and stormwater management plan from problem construction sites.