



Storm Biz

Tip of the Week

week 16: April 20, 2021

WHAT IS ILLICIT DISCHARGE (IDDE)?

The U.S. EPA defines an illicit discharge as, “any discharge into a MS4-Municipal Storm Sewer System that is not composed entirely of stormwater” Some exceptions include water from fire fighting activities and discharges from facilities under an NPDES permit. This means that anything other than the water (rain or snow) that falls from the sky and enters a storm drain system is an illicit discharge.

IDDE: Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

Why are IDDE Efforts Necessary?

The City of Nitro, like many other cities, is required under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit to find and eliminate these problems to comply with the federal Clean Water Act. But, eliminating illicit discharges is also very necessary to protect our environment, wildlife, aquatic life, water ways, and more!

What are types of an Illicit Discharge?

Any of the following, entering a stormwater system or waterway:

- Sanitary wastewater
- Paint
- Petroleum products
- Auto or household toxins
- Pet waste
- Yard waste
- Garbage or rubbish
- Industrial waste
- Effluent from septic tanks
- Radiator flushing
- Laundry wastewater
- Restaurant grease and oil

Examples of what Illicit Discharge can look like



Why is it important to report and prevent an illicit discharge?

The result is untreated discharges that contain pollutants, including oil, heavy metals, bacteria, and excess nutrients from fertilizer, which can harm our water quality, wildlife, and human health

Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system most commonly through these three ways:

1. Direct connections from wastewater pipes.
2. Indirectly from infiltration by cracked sanitary pipes or spills.
3. Oil, household waste, pesticides/fertilizers and pet waste.