

Village of Scotia

MS4 Stormwater Program

Education Document on Illicit Discharges

What types of discharges are allowable to the Village's stormwater system?

- Stormwater.
- Non-stormwater discharges are authorized by the SPDES General Permit provided they do not violate Environmental Conservation Law.
- Discharges from firefighting activities are authorized only when the firefighting activities are emergencies/unplanned.

What is an illicit discharge and why is it prohibited?

- Illicit discharges are defined as a storm drain that has measurable flow during dry weather containing pollutants and/or pathogens. A storm drain with measurable flow but containing no pollutants is simply considered a discharge.
- Illicit discharges are prohibited as the storm drains have outfalls to water courses where public health and environmental health can be negatively affected.

Environmental hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste are:

- Illicit discharges are a problem because, unlike wastewater, which flows to a treatment plant, stormwater generally flows to waterways without any additional treatment. Illicit discharges often contain pathogens, nutrients, surfactants, and various toxic pollutants that can harm humans, animals and plants.

Proper handling and disposal practices for the most common behaviors within the Village:

- Car washing – wash cars on lawn areas so the soapy water and dirt does not go to the storm drain or go to a car wash where the water is recycled.
- Household hazardous wastes – paint, cleaners, oil, gasoline, pesticides, batteries and more – dispose during the Schenectady County Hazardous Waste Disposal Day.
- Swimming pool draining – water should be drained slowly and be directed across pervious, well-drained ground on your own property.
- Pet waste – pick up pet waste in your yard and when walking your pet along a road or in a park and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Waterfowl feeding – do not feed ducks, geese or other waterfowl as their waste contributes significantly to water pollution from fecal coliform.

How to report illicit discharges that are observed: Call the Village DPW at 518-393-2159 or email Ryan Kedzior at: rkedzior@villageofscotiany.gov