

REMEMBER...

- ⇒ What we do on land affects the quality of water we drink and use in so many ways.
- ⇒ Many small sources of pollution add up to cause big water quality problems.
- ⇒ Natural things such as soil, leaves, and grass clippings can cause water pollution.
- ⇒ Waste dumped into storm sewers goes to Sandy Run Creek, Juniper Creek, Dry Run Creek, Bay Gall Creek, and Mule Creek.
- ⇒ Waste dumped into storm sewers goes into the local waterways *WITHOUT* treatment.
- ⇒ Automobiles and other vehicles cause water pollution as well as air pollution.

EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Reporting of illegal dumping or suspicious discharges will, in great part, rely on participation from the public. Anyone who observes illegal dumping or pollutants within drainage areas are encouraged to contact the City of Byron Public Works department at 478-956-2411 to report a stormwater violation or use the “report a problem” tab located on the city’s website. This program cannot succeed without strong public participation to keep our community peachy clean!

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Public Works

STORMWATER UTILITY

Illicit Discharge

and

Detection Elimination

for

Commercial and Industrial Activities



What are illicit discharges and improper disposals?

Ordinance and Enforcement

Help prevent discharges

Illicit Discharge Exemptions

What to report

What are illicit discharges and improper disposals?

An illicit discharge is defined as “any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that IS NOT composed entirely of stormwater” that causes a risk to human health and safety, land and water. Some pollutants that fall into this broad category are:

- ⇒ Car wash wastewater
- ⇒ Gas and motor oil
- ⇒ Grass clippings
- ⇒ Household cleaners
- ⇒ Paints
- ⇒ Pesticides
- ⇒ Pet Waste
- ⇒ Solvents
- ⇒ Weed killer



Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or improper disposal into ditches that ultimately lead to the Ocmulgee River. This can result in serious health and water quality problems. In addition, wildlife and the overall appearance of the local waterways are adversely affected by illicit discharges.

Ordinance and Enforcement

The City of Byron has a Stormwater Ordinance that makes it illegal to discharge illicit substances into the municipal separate storm sewer system. An Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program has been implemented to identify, monitor, trace, and inspect illicit discharges to stormwater drains, ditches, creeks, etc. The ordinance allows the city to enforce removal and/or remediation of illicit discharges as well as fine owners, operators or responsible parties. For more information please visit www.municode.com.

What Ways Can You Help Keep Illicit Discharge Out of Our Local Waterways?

There are simple steps that we can take to solve the problems that our local streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes face. It is up to YOU, the business owner who calls Middle Georgia home, to help keep it clean!

1. **Used oil, antifreeze and batteries** can be recycled. Clean up any spills immediately– kitty litter or sawdust will absorb the spill. Be sure to sweep these up as well. **One quart of oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water!**
2. **Wash vehicles** at a facility where the wastewater is contained and treated.
3. Empty jugs of **cleaners, pesticides and herbicides** should be disposed of according to the label directions.
4. **Grass clippings** in the street should be removed after each mowing and NOT blown into the municipal storm sewer system. Grass clippings that are washed downstream have the potential to cause algae blooms, ultimately reducing the oxygen level and aquatic life.
5. **Paints, paint thinners, and solvents** can be taken to the Houston County Landfill. First, put kitty litter in the containers and allow ample for them to dry out.



What non-stormwater discharges are exempt or conditionally exempt from being considered Illicit Discharges and Improper Disposals?

Exempt:

- ⇒ Diverted stream flows
- ⇒ Rising groundwaters
- ⇒ Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration
- ⇒ Springs
- ⇒ Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- ⇒ Flows from fire fighting activities

Conditionally Exempt:

- ⇒ Water line flushing
- ⇒ Landscape irrigation
- ⇒ Uncontaminated pumped groundwater
- ⇒ Discharges from potable water sources
- ⇒ Foundation drains
- ⇒ Air conditioning condensation
- ⇒ Irrigation water
- ⇒ Water from space crawl pumps
- ⇒ Footing drains
- ⇒ Lawn watering
- ⇒ Individual residential carwash
- ⇒ De-chlorinated swimming pool discharges