



Protect Our Waterways - Let Only Rain Down the Storm Drain

Educational Flyer on Preventing and Reporting Illicit Discharge

What is Illicit Discharge? Any discharge to a storm drain system that is not solely rainwater.

On its way to a storm drain, rain can become contaminated with pollutants. These pollutants flow with the rainwater through the City's drainage network and are carried all the way to the lagoon and ocean. The contamination decreases the quality of the receiving water bodies and contributes to fish kills, algae blooms, and beach closures.

***YOU** can engage in numerous efforts to prevent contaminants from entering Vero Beach's precious waterways.*

- ❖ **Yard Debris:** Leaf litter, grass clippings, and other debris break down into nutrients which impair our water bodies. **Don't:** blow yard debris into nearby storm drains or onto roadways. **Do:** bag yard debris or blow them onto vegetated areas of your property.
- ❖ **Fertilizers:** Using fertilizers improperly contributes to increased nitrogen and phosphorous in rainwater. Nitrogen and phosphorous are the two most concerning pollutants for the Indian River Lagoon. Fertilizing is banned during the rainy season, June 1 through September 30. During other times of the year fertilizers must contain slow release nitrogen and no phosphorus. **Local stores sell fertilizers that are banned from use in Vero Beach so be sure to check the labels before you buy!** Visit befloridiannow.org for more information on fertilizers.
- ❖ **Automotive Fluids:** Check your vehicle for leaks to prevent oil from being collected by rainwater.
- ❖ **Car Soaps:** Wash your car at a car wash instead of in your driveway to prevent dirt and soap from being washed into storm drains.
- ❖ **Pet Waste:** Pick up after your pet(s) and dispose of waste properly. Pet waste contributes to increased nitrogen levels in rainwater runoff.
- ❖ **Illegal Dumping:** Never pour anything down a storm drain.



We are counting on YOU to look out for our waterways. Please be cautious about what washes off of your property and **REPORT** any illicit discharge to Code Enforcement immediately at (772)978-4640.



For more information about stormwater in Vero Beach visit <http://arcg.is/1fPzLW>