

Identifying and Reporting Illicit Discharges

What Is an Illicit Discharge?

Chapter 7 of the City Code (available [here](#)) defines an illicit discharge as:

"Any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain system..."

Why do We Need to Identify and Report Illicit Discharges?

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act (CWA) and helps address water pollution by regulating sources of pollution to waters of the United States. The City of Orange City is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permitted under Phase II of the NPDES program. In order to comply with our permit, the City must establish regulations prohibiting illicit discharges into the MS4 and provide sufficient means to monitor and enforce local discharge regulations. In November 2009, the City adopted Ordinance 406, which addresses illicit discharge.

What Types of Things Are Not Allowed?

In addition to obvious pollutants such as oils, antifreeze and chemicals, many normal household activities can cause an illicit discharge. Dumping yard waste, draining chlorinated swimming pool water and household wastewater from washing machines, dishwashers or water softening devices into ditches, storm drains and canals are also classified as illicit discharges. Even sweeping grass clippings into a storm drain is an illicit discharge. The City's ditches and pipes eventually make their way to one of the surrounding water bodies. Even if there is no direct connection to a ditch or pipe, contaminants discharged on the ground can make their way through the groundwater and contaminate the receiving water bodies.

What to Do if I see an Illicit Discharge

It is imperative that illicit discharges be detected, reported and corrected as early as possible to minimize harm to the environment. If you see or suspect illegal dumping or illicit discharges into the City's drainage system, please call Mr. Alan Williamson at 386-775-5477 or email awilliamson@orangecityfl.gov. Useful information includes: what is being dumped, the time of the day, the location of the illicit dumping and (if applicable) a license plate number of the vehicle or trailer involved. If you are reporting an illicit discharge via email, please use the subject line "POTENTIAL ILLICIT DISCHARGE" and include the closest address to the observed condition. The City of Orange City will promptly investigate the matter to determine if an Illicit discharge is occurring and facilitate corrective action if warranted.