

# Illicit Discharges Duluth Township Fact Sheet



**Our Stormwater System-** In Duluth Township, our stormwater system is our roads, ditches and culverts. They are the conduits that carry rain water from our properties to our streams and rivers and ultimately to Lake Superior. It should be everyone's goal that this water remains clean and does not carry pollutants to waters that support recreational use, wildlife, aquatic organisms, and human health .

**Illicit Discharge Ordinance-** As part of state requirements for our storm water system, Duluth Township passed an Illicit Discharge Ordinance in March of 2013 that prohibits letting pollutants enter our ditches and ultimately our creeks and rivers. The full ordinance can be read at:  
[http://www.duluthtownship.org/pdf/ordinances/031413\\_Illicit\\_Discharges.pdf](http://www.duluthtownship.org/pdf/ordinances/031413_Illicit_Discharges.pdf)



**What is an illicit discharge?** Any substance other than stormwater that enters our ditches and streams! You might be

surprised to know that even a dirt pile can be a source of sediment that pollutes our streams, but there are other more obvious sources that can cause pollutants to enter our stormwater system:

- >Antifreeze/transmission fluid and motor oil
- >Soil from land disturbance activities
- >Construction debris
- >Leaking septic systems
- >Excessive dirt and gravel
- >Home improvement waste (concrete, mortar)
- >Oil filters
- >Pesticides and fertilizers
- >Pet and livestock waste
- >Solvent/degreasers, detergents, paints
- >Trash and yard waste (leaves, grass, mulch)

## What are the exceptions?

Generally, exceptions are discharges specified in writing by the authorized enforcement agency as being necessary to protect public health and safety. For Duluth Township, this includes firefighting activities, salt and sand spread on roads during the winter season for safe driving, and chloride solution spread judiciously on gravel roads during the summer for dust control.

However, there are some other exceptions such as:

- >landscape irrigation or lawn watering
- >ground water infiltration to storm drains,
- >foundation or footing drains
- >non-commercial washing of vehicles
- >natural riparian habitat or wet-land flows
- >swimming pools (if de-chlorinated)
- >any other pollutant free water

## How can I prevent Illicit Discharges?

- Use fertilizers sparingly.
- Repair auto leaks.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil, etc.), paints, other chemicals and batteries at designated collection or recycling locations.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas.
- Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Have your septic system regularly inspected.
- Properly dispose of construction debris, like concrete and mortar.

**Monitoring for Illicit Discharges?** The township supervisor in charge of roads conducts annual inspections of all our roads and among other things looks for evidence of pollutants entering our stormwater system. However, it is our residents who live and travel on our township roads that are the real eyes and can have the most impact on keeping our stormwater system clean.

## How do I identify an illicit discharge?



Sometimes it will be obvious- a big pile of dirt that is continually leeching sediments into a ditch, but sometimes it can be as subtle as water flowing through a culvert or ditch when there has not been any rain for some time. In general, the following

may indicate an illicit discharge:

- distinct odor
- water that is cloudy or full of sediment
- suds or oil floating on the water
- excessive vegetation around downside of culvert
- abnormal color

**How do I report an illicit discharge?** Call or email the town hall and report what you saw and the exact location. If the suspected discharge is on a township road, the road supervisor will check it out. You may be referred to St. Louis County if it is on a County Rd. or the DNR or MPCA if it is in a stream.

**HAZARDOUS WASTES.** These are substances that pose an immediate and substantial risk, for example, a fuel leak or a chemical spill. If you suspect a hazardous waste, do not go near the contaminated site. Call 911 immediately and then call or email the Town Hall. The 911 operator will notify the appropriate responders. Some of our township staff and members of our fire department have had Hazardous Waste Awareness training and know what to do to keep the area secure and the steps to ensure that the materials are contained and eventually cleaned up.



## Contact Information:

Duluth Town Hall:

Email: [TownHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownHall@duluthtownship.org)

Phone: (218) 525-5705

St Louis County

Jean Duluth Garage (218) 720-1508

Environmental Project Manager (218) 625-3800

Regional Stormwater Protection Team

Hotline (218) 529-3281