

# What are the Signs of an Illicit Discharge?

## Sanitary Sewer Discharges

### Observations:

- Sanitary debris
- Staining on pipe
- Soap suds
- Gray or discolored water
- Odors: sewage, rotten eggs or detergents

### Contact:

IDEP coordinator and/or DPW



## Failed Septic Systems

### Observations:

- Overgrown or wet patch of grass
- Cheater pipe to ditch
- Soap suds
- Gray or discolored water
- Odors: sewage, rotten eggs or detergents

### Contact:

Health Department and/or IDEP coordinator



## Illegal Dumping, Spills or Floor Drain Connections

### Observations:

- Oil sheen
- Stained sediment, rocks or vegetation
- Odor: petroleum, chemical

### Contact:

IDEP coordinator or MDEQ



## Industrial Discharges

### Observations:

- Discolored water or vegetation
- Odor: petroleum, chemical

### Contact:

IDEP coordinator and/or DPW



## Agricultural Runoff, Fertilizers, or Sanitary Sewer Waste

### Observations:

- Algae growth near drain outlet or in a ditch

### Contact:

IDEP coordinator, DPW and/or Drain Office



## Soil Erosion from Construction Sites

### Observations:

- Bare soils or banks with no soil erosion control fencing
- Muddy discharge from an outfall

### Contact:

Local soil erosion control agency (either the local community or county)



## Important Numbers

### EMERGENCIES

- Police/Fire 911
- MDEQ Pollution Alert System (PEAS) 800-292-4706; 24 hrs

### NON-EMERGENCIES

#### Livingston County:

- Health Department 517-546-9858; 8 am - 5 pm
- Drain Office 517-546-0040; 8 am - 5 pm

#### Macomb County:

- Health Department 586-469-5236; 8 am - 5 pm
- IDEP Hotline 877-679-4337; after 5 pm
- IDEP e-mail IDEP@macombcountymi.gov

Oakland County 248-858-0931; 24 hrs

St. Clair County 877-504-SWIM (7946); 24 hrs

Washtenaw County 734-222-3880; 8 am - 5 pm

Wayne County 888-223-2363; 24 hrs

Laura Gruzowski, HRC 248-454-6856

Ron Fadoir, OCWRC 248-858-5248

## How to Spot Illicit Discharges A Tip Card for Municipal Staff



An illicit discharge is any discharge containing polluting material, such as sediment, nutrients, oil and bacteria. These discharges can drain to lakes and streams via storm drains. The communities in Southeast Michigan are required to prevent illicit discharges from entering storm water. You can do your part by notifying the appropriate agency when you spot a potential illicit discharge.

---

## What to Report?

- Spills and contamination to lakes, rivers and streams
- Suspicious dumping to catch basins or waterways
- Unusual discharges from pipes
- Sewage on the ground or draining to surface water
- Large number of dead fish in waterways
- Failing or leaky septic systems
- Polluted runoff from storage piles or dumpsters to catch basins or waterways
- Sewage, detergent, chemical, petroleum or rotten egg odors
- Soil erosion from construction sites