

In order to manage stormwater runoff pollution, Charles County implemented the **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program** in 2001. Stormwater runoff is a result of a rain or snow event flowing over impervious surfaces like streets, sidewalks, and parking lots. This **stormwater runoff** conveys pollutants associated with vehicle maintenance, pet waste, lawn care, and litter into the storm drain system leading directly to our local waterways. When materials like used oil, trash juice from dumpsters, chemicals, or other hazardous materials are discharged, intentionally or unintentionally, into the storm water sewer system, this is considered an **illicit discharge**. Charles County is charged with the responsibility to discover, document, and eliminate these sources of stormwater pollution.



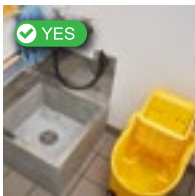
## Help Charles County Prevent Stormwater Pollution



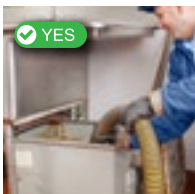
Keep garbage can and dumpster **lids closed**, and the area free of debris. Ensure that the dumpster is in proper working condition (i.e., no leaks, or seal damage).



**Immediately clean up** any oil, chemical, or other liquid spill using **dry methods** like kitty litter. Properly dispose of the cleanup material after absorbance.



Use **indoor sinks** or floor drains to clean floor mats and empty dirty mop water. **Do not** dispose of any wash water outdoors or into the storm drains.



Keep grease dumpster and used oil container **lids closed** at all times when not in use. Using a closed container to prevent spills, **transport** used cooking oil to grease dumpster after it has cooled.



**To report a concern about pollutants or possible illegal dumping into the storm drain system, contact the Department of Planning & Growth Management: 301-646-0692**

- **Properly store** potentially hazardous materials, such as grease, paints, detergents, antifreeze, or heavy metals, in appropriate, labeled containers.
- **Ensure** all outdoor containers have lids and are kept closed when not in use.
- **Cover** outdoor work areas and piles of loose materials (i.e., sand, salt) to prevent contaminated runoff from reaching storm drains.
- **Move** any activities which have the potential for pollution indoors.



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Pollution Prevention Practices is a publication of the Charles County Watershed Protection & Restoration Program. For additional information, visit online or contact us by phone or email.

301-645-0692 • [PGM@CharlesCountyMD.gov](mailto:PGM@CharlesCountyMD.gov)

[www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/Watershed](http://www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/Watershed)



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