

# ILLICIT DISCHARGE

It is illegal to put anything but rainwater down storm drains or into water bodies, with the exception of discharge allowed under a NPDES permit or water used for firefighting operations.

Illicit discharges can result from illegal connections to the storm drain system from business or commercial establishments.

Illicit connections may be intentional or may be an unknown connection of floor drains to the storm sewer system.

Additional sources of illicit discharges can be failing septic systems, illegal dumping practices, and the improper disposal of sewage from recreational practices such as boating or camping.



Report illegal dumping to  
the Public Works Department  
at (972) 291-5126.

Help keep  
our water  
healthy and  
clean!

Prevent  
Stormwater  
Pollution

Public Works Department  
285 Uptown Blvd. #100  
Cedar Hill, TX 75104

(972) 291-5126  
[pw@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:pw@cedarhilltx.com)  
[www.cedarhilltx.com/pw](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/pw)





## STORMWATER RUNOFF

Construction changes the natural condition of the land. Improvements such as roads, homes, etc., create many impervious or impenetrable surfaces. Eventually, the stormwater runoff flows into our creeks and streams.

The stormwater runoff may carry anything that has been applied to the ground such as fertilizers or pesticides. As more land is developed, the volume, speed of flow, and pollutant loading of runoff increases. To minimize standing water on and adjacent to the roads and to reduce pollution to our local water bodies, the City is required to implement stormwater management practices.



## EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

**Sediment** can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow, which could destroy aquatic habitats.

**Excess nutrients** can cause algae blooms. Dead algae sinks to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms cannot exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

**Bacteria and other pathogens** can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

**Debris** (plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts) washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life such as ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

**Household hazardous wastes** such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

-  Properly dispose of waste at your home.
-  Turn off your sprinklers before a rain or install a rain/freeze sensor on the system.
-  Do the right thing and pick up after your pets.
-  Apply pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers well before rain is forecasted.
-  Use native or drought tolerant plants that are adapted to Texas weather extremes and require less water and fewer fertilizer applications.
-  Don't dump motor oil on the ground or in the storm drain, and take used oil to a recycling facility.
-  Check cars, boats and motorcycles for leaks and use absorbent materials for clean up. Do not rinse in the street.
-  Keep yard clippings and other yard wastes in a compost bin for use in landscape beds.
-  Wash your vehicle at a commercial carwash.
-  Drain your pool water into the sanitary sewer line by running drain hoses to clean outs.



**CEDAR HILL**  
WHERE OPPORTUNITIES GROW NATURALLY