

Help Protect Our Streams

In an effort to improve water quality in our streams and protect these precious natural resources from damage caused by pollution, Moore Township has established a program to receive and respond to public reports of suspected illicit (illegal) discharges to its storm sewer systems and waterways. An Illicit discharge is defined as, "...any discharge to a storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater...". Illicit discharges can enter a storm sewer system through direct connections such as wastewater piping mistakenly or deliberately connected to a storm drain or through indirect connections including infiltration into the storm sewer system from failed septic systems, spills, or toxins collected by or dumped directly into storm sewer inlets. The result is untreated discharges that can send high levels of pollutants like heavy metals, toxins, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria directly to our streams.

Sources of Illicit Discharges

The following are a few examples of common sources of illicit discharges:

- Effluent from malfunctioning septic tanks;
- Commercial carwash wastewater;
- Laundry washwater;
- Runoff from outdoor material storage areas;
- Spills from roadway accidents.
- Improper disposal of household toxins;
- Runoff from vehicle fueling areas; and
- Improper disposal of oil or other automobile fluids.

How You Can Help

As residents, you are often the first to recognize a suspected illicit discharge. You can help the Township protect our streams by reporting violations or problems you might notice before they cause more damage and pollution. Immediately report instances of any of the following conditions that are often associated with illicit discharges to the Township or the appropriate local or state agency using the contact information below:

- Dry weather flow from an outfall pipe into a stream (more than 72 hours after a rainfall or other runoff event) – Moore Township;
- Overflow or other failure of a septic system – Moore Township;
- Evidence of illegal dumping activities – Moore Township;
- Non-stormwater discharge to storm sewer or stream – Moore Township;
- Sediment (mud, dirt, or muddy water) leaving a construction site – NCCD;
- Observed pollution event or pollutants in stream (visual evidence or odor) – PennDEP;
- Spill, hazardous materials – PennDEP; and
- Fish kill – PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Environmental Emergency Contact Information

Moore Township	610-759-9449	Weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, (leave message after hrs.)
PennDEP Environmental Emergency Hotline	570-826-2511 or 866-255-5158, Ext. 2	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Northampton County Conservation District	610-759-6276	Weekdays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, (leave message after hrs.)
PA Fish and Boat Commission Hotline	855-347-4545	Weekdays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, (leave message after hrs.)

Not-So-Illicit Discharges

The following non-stormwater discharges or flows do not contain significant levels of pollutants and are therefore not considered reportable illicit discharges:

- Discharges from fire-fighting activities;
- Runoff from irrigation practices;
- Diverted stream flows;
- Springs;
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water;
- Discharges from dechlorinated swimming pools;
- Discharges from potable water sources;
- Foundation drains;
- Air conditioning condensate;
- Water from basement sump pumps;
- Residential car wash runoff; and
- Discharges from NPDES-permitted industrial sources.

As residents of Moore Township, it is our collective responsibility to protect and preserve our community's precious natural resources for our health and wellbeing and that of future generations. Please help the Township to advance this critical goal by promptly reporting suspected illicit discharges.