

## WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

An **Illicit discharge** is any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the Coweta County **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)**. Non-stormwater discharges can be discharges that occur due to spills, dumping and **illicit connections** to the MS4 from residential, industrial, commercial or institutional establishments.

The Coweta County **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** is any facility designed or used for collecting and/or conveying stormwater, including municipal roads with drainage systems, curbs, gutters, inlets, catch basins, piped storm drains, structural stormwater controls, ditches, swales, reservoirs, and other drainage structures, and which is:

- Owned or maintained by the county;
- Not a combined sewer; and
- Not part of a publicly-owned treatment works.

An **Illicit connection** means either of the following:

- Any pipe, channel, drain or conveyance that allows an illicit discharge to enter the storm drain system;
- Any pipe, channel, drain or conveyance connected to the Coweta County MS4 which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.



**Potential sources of Illicit Discharges may include:**



- Improper disposal of automotive fluids
- Leaking dumpsters
- Failing septic systems
- Sanitary sewer cross connections or overflows
- Wash water from business operations
- Spills
- Wash water from construction related waste, .e.g. concrete, paint, stains, etc.

A few common **signs of illicit discharges** include staining of the curb/gutter and/or street, residues, oil sheens, discoloration of water bodies, odors, turbid or cloudy water, soap suds, and dry weather flows in periods with no rain.

### Exemptions

The following discharges are not considered illicit discharges:

- Water line flushing performed by a government agency
- Flows from potable water sources

- Landscape irrigation or lawn watering
- Ground water infiltration into storm drains, uncontaminated pumped ground water, foundation or footing drains, and crawl space pumps
- Air conditioning condensation
- Discharges or flows from firefighting activities, or other discharges necessary to protect public health and safety
- Non-stormwater discharges permitted under an NPDES permit
- Diverted stream flows, springs, natural riparian habitat or wetland flows
- Any other water source not containing pollutants

#### **What can I do if I notice an Illicit Discharge?**

- Contact Coweta County Stormwater Management at 770-254-3775, or [stormwater@coweta.ga.us](mailto:stormwater@coweta.ga.us);
- Fill out the online Stormwater Reporting form located here:  
<http://www.coweta.ga.us/how-do-i/report-issues/report-stormwater-issues>

