

Illicit Discharge/Dumping

Stormwater runoff starts on your roof, lawn, and driveway, as well as on local roads and business parking lots. From there it enters storm drains that ultimately discharge into our streams and creeks. Along the way to the streams, stormwater runoff can pick up pollutants and debris, or debris can clog the system and cause stormwater runoff to pond up and cause flooding problems. The pollutants and debris can affect the quality of the water, including:

- Increased cost in treating drinking water
- Algal blooms that can harm aquatic wildlife
- Chemical pollutants that kill plants and animals
- Unsightly streams with unpleasant odors
- Expensive fines from the DEP and the EPA to fix the problems



Photo: nctcog.org



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Your municipality was issued a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit that requires your municipality to implement control measures to protect water quality and reduce the potential for the previously listed problems. An MS4 is made up of a series of inlets/storm drains, storm sewer pipes, swales, and outfalls that collect and convey stormwater. Most likely, your stormwater management facility or BMP is connected to the MS4. In turn, stormwater that exits your BMP will most likely end up in local streams.

It is important to keep your BMP free of debris and with stable vegetation to help allow the entire system to function appropriately. Dumping or storing landscape debris (grass clippings, leaves, soil/dirt, etc.) or hazardous materials (oils, grease, etc.) in and around BMPs is not allowed. Pet waste should be cleaned up promptly in a BMP as well. Intermingling of these materials with stormwater can generate polluted discharges or result in an illicit discharge.

If you see something suspicious (soapy suds or unusually colored water flowing into or within a local waterway (or in your BMP), someone dumping material like leaves, grass clippings, trash, or liquids near your BMP or into a local waterway, etc.), please call your municipality.

