

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

ILLICIT DISCHARGE BASICS

What is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is the discharge of pollutants or non-stormwater materials to the stormwater system. The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants including heavy metals, toxins, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving water bodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in EPA studies to be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.



What is Lowndes County doing about illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE)?

In May 2006, Lowndes County adopted an ordinance to establish an IDDE program including a provision for assessing civil penalties on violators. Environmental Program personnel investigate illicit connections and improper disposals to the Lowndes County's stormwater system. Examples of such investigations include someone dumping paint or yard debris into a storm drain or creek, or a spill of a hazardous material that enters the stormwater system.

MAKING SENSE OF IDDE

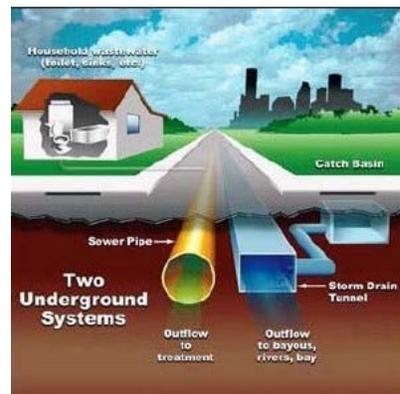
Is stormwater treated at a treatment plant?

NO! The storm sewer system is often confused with the sanitary sewer system. In Lowndes County, these are two distinctly separate systems.

Flows to the sanitary sewer system (e.g. flushing toilets, shower drains, kitchen sink drains, etc.) are treated at the water treatment facility. Flows to the stormwater system (through curbs on the edge of the street and through stormwater inlets) usually go to the nearest creek, stream, or lake and do not receive treatment at a plant.

What can I do?

You can do your part by keeping all non stormwater materials away from and out of all curb inlets, grates, and water bodies in town.



IDDE REPORTING

How do I report illicit discharge?

To report an illicit discharge in Lowndes County please call the Engineering Department, Stormwater Division, at 229-671-2424. Many environmental problems can be resolved as a result of these investigations. **You can make a difference by calling!**

What do I say when I call?

Please have the following information ready when you call:

1. Your name and contact information (if you would like a follow-up call).
2. Location of the incident.
3. When you witnessed the incident (date and time).
4. What materials that were involved in the incident.

What happens after I call?

Once you report an illicit discharge, the information is recorded in our system. An environmental Program Staff member will investigate and take samples as necessary. Per the IDDE ordinance, a civil penalty may be issued depending on the severity of the incident

STORM DRAIN MARKING PROGRAM

The Lowndes County Stormwater Division Storm Drain Stenciling Program is a great hands-on opportunity for volunteers to help educate their community about the importance of stormwater pollution prevention.

The program allows volunteers to adhere watershed specific markers on storm drains to remind citizens that stormwater runoff can wash pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, litter, oil and other automotive fluids, sediment, and household chemicals into our valuable creeks, rivers, and lakes.

The county will provide you and/or your group with all storm drain marking supplies, safety equipment, and instructions. Call Lowndes County’s Stormwater Division, 229-671-2424, to schedule a storm drain marking event!

You can also contact the Lowndes County Engineering Department at 229-671-2424 to report illicit discharge.

