

## Remember...

- ◆ *What we do on land affects the quality of water we drink and use in so many ways*
- ◆ *Many small sources of pollution add up to cause large water quality problems*
- ◆ *Natural things, such as soil, leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste can cause water pollution and/or flooding*
- ◆ *Waste dumped into storm sewers ultimately ends up in the Yellowstone River*

## What can you do?

- ◆ *Dispose of paint cleaners and other household chemicals according to label directions*
- ◆ *When at home, wash your car so that wastewater drains to grass, not to the storm drain system*
- ◆ *Promptly clean up after your pet*
- ◆ *Recycle used motor oil at participating centers*
- ◆ *Vegetate bare areas to reduce soil erosion*



**Illicit Discharge**

## Resources and Contacts

For more information on Illicit Discharges, please visit Environmental Affairs on the City of Billings Website or contact 406-247-8663.

### City of Billings EA Division

2224 Montana Avenue  
Billings, MT 59101

To report an illicit discharge, please  
contact: 406-247-8663



## Keep it clean!



Billings, Montana

# ILLICIT DISCHARGES



*Alcohol is poured down the sewers during prohibition days in the United States (1920-1933)  
Unknown City*



## What is the problem?

Pollutants that enter our local waterways through the storm drain system affect water quality, make swimming potentially unsafe, and impair fish habitat. These pollutants can be absorbed by fish possibly making their consumption harmful. Dumping anything, accidentally or purposely, into a gutter, ditch, or storm drain is illegal and violators can be issued civil penalties. These illegal actions are known as “illicit discharges.”

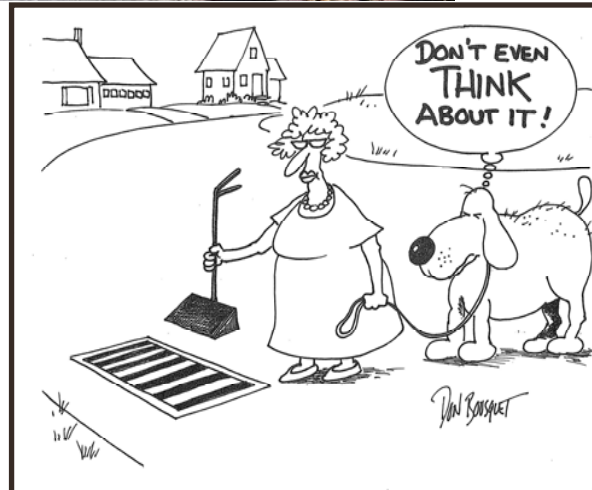


### EXAMPLES OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES

- ◆ Dumping household chemicals
- ◆ Dumping leaves and yard waste
- ◆ Dumping motor oil
- ◆ Sanitary waste water (sewage)
- ◆ Car wash waste waters
- ◆ Litter and garbage
- ◆ Pet waste
- ◆ Sediment from construction sites

## Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

To improve our water quality and to stay in compliance with state and federal regulations, the City of Billings has adopted an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Ordinance. This ordinance prohibits pollutants from entering our local waters, regulates connections to the storm sewer systems, and outlines enforcement procedures and penalties.



## Ordinance Highlights

This ordinance applies to non-storm water discharges in areas within the City limits.

The following are typical exemptions (not inclusive):

- ◆ Water line flushing
- ◆ Landscape irrigation
- ◆ Non-commercial washing of vehicles
- ◆ De-chlorinated discharge from pools
- ◆ Uncontaminated pumped groundwater
- ◆ Fire fighting activities
- ◆ Street cleaning operations

## Inspections

Periodically, the Public Works Department may inspect facilities to prevent illicit discharges, particularly if pollutants are detected in the storm drain system.



Billings Gazette/Larry Mayer

Silvertip Oil Spill on the Yellowstone River in 2011