

WaterWatch



Illicit Discharges

In the field of stormwater management, illicit discharges are a major concern for pollution. Here are several examples of illicit discharges to help you understand what illicit discharges are, what threats they pose and how you can make a difference.

Cross-Connection

The storm sewer utility does regular monitoring of the City's storm-

water outfalls as part of our maintenance and management efforts. Monitoring includes visual inspections and taking water samples for testing. Signs such as odd colors or stains, unusual odors or foam in water may indicate that pollution is present.

In one of our regular inspections, it was discovered that there were items associated with sanitary sewer discharge (toilet paper, sani-

tary napkins, etc.) floating in the water. Samples were taken and higher than normal levels of fecal coliform were confirmed. There was definitely a problem.

Crews pulled manholes upstream of there and were able to observe sewer discharges upstream in several locations until they came to an area with several businesses. With the use of a camera designed to inspect pipes, crews were able to document the locations of all pipes that connected the storm sewer system. One was observed discharging sewage.

Business owners granted permission for us to test the sewer flows from the building and it was discovered that a sewer lateral had been inadvertently connected to the storm sewer during construction of the building. The owner was given a short time period in which to disconnect the lateral from the storm sewer and reconnect it to the sanitary sewer.

Dumping

We have had several instances where we have encountered someone deliberately dumping some-

(Continued on back)



Oil absorbent dam placed to stop oil from further contaminating or damaging a storm sewer sump. This oil came from a do-it-yourself mechanic who did not follow proper precautions while changing oil in his car.

If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

City of Orem Public Works

1450 W 550 North

Orem, UT 84057

Stormwater Hotline: 801-229-7577

We're on the Web!
www.orem.org



Evidence of some kind of washout, probably from a home improvement project



Large stockpiles like this one have had significant portions wash away in an unexpected storm. Never store stockpiles in the street or on sidewalks.

thing into a storm drain.

- Carpet cleaners have discharged wash water into the gutter.
- Do-it-yourself mechanics have dumped oil into storm drains
- Restaurant employees have dumped grease into sumps behind their businesses.
- Painters have washed out brushes and rollers in gutters.
- Tile and countertop cutters have directed waste water from their shops into storm drains.
- Landscapers have piled large amounts of dirt or other materials on streets only to have large portions of their materials wash into storm drains when it rained.

In these cases we rely on conscientious and observant residents to let us know. That's why we have established a **Storm Water Hotline**.

When you see a situation like those noted above, please call **801-229-7577**. You will be directed to a member of our storm water staff or you will be prompted to leave a message. In either case, we will send someone to investigate the situation and educate the people responsible for the dumping.

During the investigative process, those that have intentionally created a cross-connection or who have dumped directly into the storm sewer face the possibility of fines and/or prosecution.



Improper storage of chemicals pose serious risk to storm water quality.