



# Storm Drain Pollution Prevention Ordinance: An Overview




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*Storm drains lead directly to local waters. No filters. No treatment. Chemicals that enter stormdrains wind up in the water we drink, fish, and swim.*

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## Purpose

As part of the requirements for the town/city of \_\_\_\_\_ Stormwater program the municipality is required to prevent pollution discharge to stormdrains by instituting an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Ordinance.

This ordinance has several objectives including:

1. Prevent or reduce the amount of pollutants entering the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).
2. Prohibit improper connections and unauthorized discharges to the MS4.
3. Require removal of all improper connections and discharges.
4. Comply with State law and federal statutes and regulations regarding stormwater discharges.
5. Set forth the legal authority and procedures to carry out all inspection, monitoring and enforcement activities necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

When water flows into stormdrains, it flows out into our wetlands, rivers and the Bay without treatment. Stormwater discharge contributes to nuisance flooding, beach closures and environmental degradation in our community. This ordinance is designed to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff.

## Basic Overview

The following provides an overview of the main areas regulated by the proposed ordinance. These are good "house keeping" practices that most businesses already practice:

1. Stormwater system interconnections. Connections to the storm water system including but not limited to sewers, process wastewater, wash water, indoor drains and sinks are illegal and must be removed.
2. Contaminated stormwater runoff from sites. All businesses and commercial properties engaged in activities or operations that may result in pollutants entering the storm water system must implement Best Management Practices. This covers almost all businesses in the municipality because even a dumpster or a parking lot constitutes a potential pollution source as oil, grease, washwater and other spills on the parking lot mix with rain water and enter nearby drains.
3. Spill prevention. Owners/operators of commercial and industrial properties must provide reasonable protection from accidental discharge. Spill prevention must be practiced (i.e.: overflow containers, placement of materials away from sump pumps) and appropriate clean-up supplies must be available.
4. Water course protection from stormwater runoff. Commercial/industrial properties adjacent to water courses will be required to keep trash and grounds maintenance waste from water courses passing through or adjacent to their properties.

