



# Water Quality Program Illicit Discharges Program



## CDOT NEEDS YOUR HELP

to prevent pollutants from being dumped or spilled into its storm drain system. CDOT employees and citizens can report pollution or questionable discharges to highway storm drains or waterways:

CDOT Illicit Discharge Standard Operating Procedure 2022:

[https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs/assets/2021-id-manual\\_final.pdf](https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs/assets/2021-id-manual_final.pdf)

CDOT IDDE Website: [www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs/idde.html](http://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs/idde.html)

CDPHE Emergency Spill Reporting: 1-877-518-5608 OR CONTACT 911

CDOT employees and citizens can report spills on CDOT highways:

FOR HAZARDOUS SPILLS, or if not known:

CO State Patrol, 24 Hour Dispatch: 303-239-4501

National Response Center: 800-424-8802

FOR NON-HAZARDOUS SPILLS:

CDOT Regional Maintenance Superintendent or CO State Patrol (above)

### Contact

Environmental Programs

2829 W Howard Place

Denver, CO 80204

(303) 512-4053



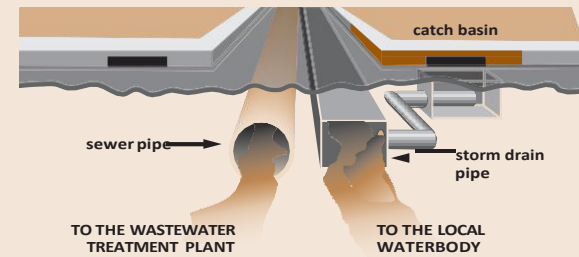
**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

CDOT's stormwater program website:

[www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs](http://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs)

CDOT Illicit Discharge Hotline: 303-512-4H2O (4426)

MOU Spill Response: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs/csp-cdot-cdphe-mou-responding-to-spills>



Stormwater runoff enters the storm drain system, which is different from the wastewater system. Stormwater runoff drains to waterways untreated.

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) – storm drain inlets, pipes and ditches - collect stormwater runoff and convey it directly to local bodies of water.



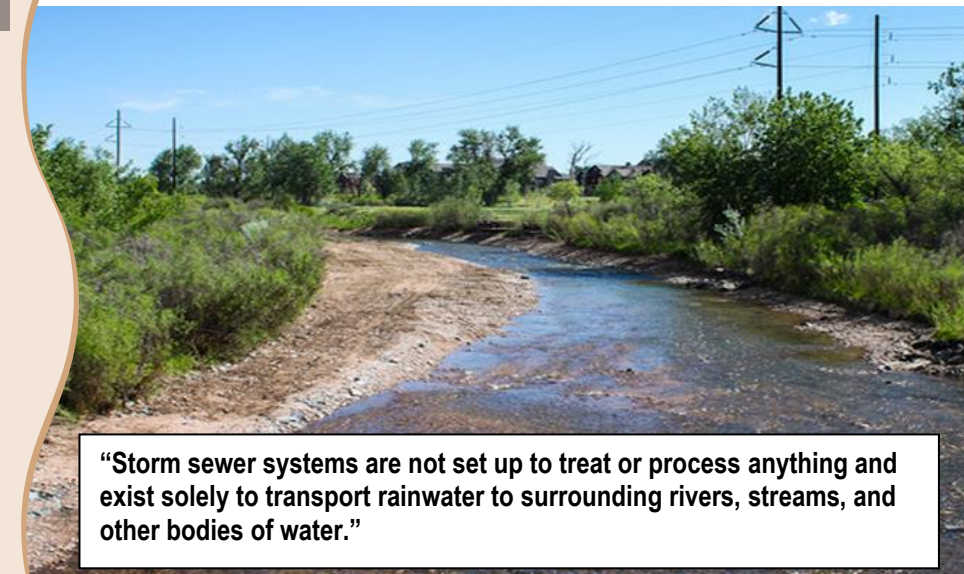
## Stormwater and Illicit Discharge

Ideally, the stormwater runoff is contaminant free. In reality, it picks up pollutants such as: soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, and debris and transports them to waterways where they are discharged with no treatment. This is stormwater pollution.

**CDOT** has a MS4 permit (COS000005) from the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) to discharge stormwater from their storm drain system. The permit states that only stormwater (and a few other allowable discharges like landscape irrigation overflow) can be discharged from CDOT's storm drain system. Pollutants, such as dirt, fertilizers, pesticides, oil and grease, antifreeze, and other automotive fluids are strictly prohibited from being disposed of in CDOT's storm drain system.

As part of the permit, CDOT has several different programs to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system. The programs are:

- Construction sites
- Permanent Water Quality
- **Illicit discharges**
- Industrial facilities
- Public education and outreach
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping
- Wet weather monitoring



**"Storm sewer systems are not set up to treat or process anything and exist solely to transport rainwater to surrounding rivers, streams, and other bodies of water."**



Allowable discharges into CDOT's storm drain system include the following:

- Landscape irrigation
- Lawn Watering
- Diverted stream flows
- Irrigation return flow
- Rising ground waters
- Uncontaminated ground water infiltration to separate stormsewers
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water
- Springs
- Flow from riparian habitats and wetlands
- Water line flushing in accordance with the division's [Clean Water Policy, Guidance and MOUs](#)
- Discharges from [Potable Water Sources](#)
- Foundation Drains
- Air conditioning condensation
- Water from crawl space pumps
- Footing drains
- Individual residential car washing
- Dechlorinated swimming pools discharges
- Water incidental to street sweeping
- Dye testing in accordance with manufacturing recommendations
- Stormwater runoff
- Emergency firefighting activities
- Authorized discharges by CDPS or NPDES permit
- Agricultural runoff that does not require a CDPS or NPDES permit

## Illicit discharges program

Through their permit with CDPHE, CDOT has a legal responsibility to control pollutants from being discharged into the storm drain system. The purpose of the Illicit Discharges Program is to identify and eliminate any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater (unless authorized by a separate permit from CDPHE). Illicit discharges are also known as illegal discharges and CDOT employees and citizens can help prevent these discharges from polluting stormwater. Common illicit discharges to CDOT's storm drain system include sewage from accidental cross connections; septage from improperly maintained septic systems; wash water flows from street cleaning; oil, fuel, antifreeze, grease, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and grass clippings dumped into CDOT's storm drain inlets.

CDOT's Illicit Discharges Program consists of the following activities:

- *Prevention of illicit discharges and improper disposal.* This includes the prohibition of illicit discharges into CDOT's storm drain system and employee education.
- *Maintain [map](#) of outfalls within CDOT's MS4*
- *Investigation of suspected illicit discharges.* CDOT has a hotline (303-512-4426) to call if anyone (CDOT employees and citizens) suspects an illicit discharge and CDOT has procedures in place to respond to all suspected illicit discharges.
- *Procedures to trace, remove, contain, and respond to illicit discharges.*



## Identify Illicit Discharges

Warning signs of illicit discharges include visual clues in the stormwater, such as **DISCOLORATION**, **PRESENCE OF SURFACE SCUM**, **OIL SHEEN OR TURBIDITY**, or a pungent **ODOR** from or near

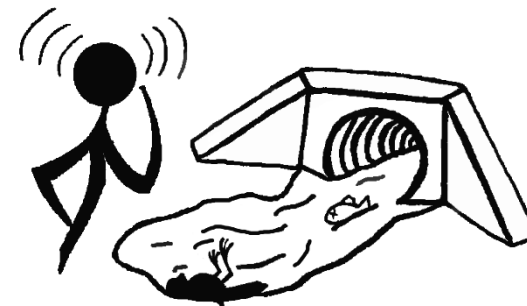
the drain or inlet. Other clues include the presence of stains, oils, or debris adjacent to CDOT roads and inlets.

Evidence of illicit discharges also can be seen from observing outfalls that collect runoff from storm drains and drain into a waterway. When the outfall is **DISCHARGING FLOW DURING DRY WEATHER**, there could be a problem. If any of these warning signs exist, please call the CDOT Illicit Discharge Hotline at 303-512-4426.

## Reporting Tips

For your safety, stay clear of any suspected illicit discharge or polluted flow. Do not touch it or try to clean it up. To ensure your safety and maintain evidence, only trained personnel should take samples. Your first response should be to call the CDOT Illicit Discharge Hotline. CDOT maintenance employees should follow the directions of the maintenance supervisor and the authorities who will respond to the scene.

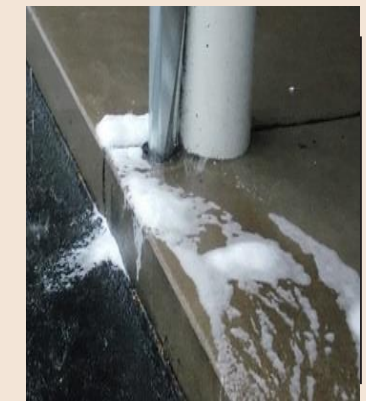
Note the date, location/mile marker of the problem, the quantity and nature (color/odor) of the substance, if the discharge is flowing into a waterway, any information on suspicious activities, and the vehicle license number or names of people potentially involved in the spill or dumping.



## What to report



Oil, gas, etc. entering a storm drain.



Soap suds exiting a storm drain system pipe.



Chemical spilled on a highway.



Discolored water from an unknown source entering a stream.