

# What You Need to Know Before You Tap Into MDOT's Storm Drainage System

It is illegal to discharge substances other than storm water into MDOT's storm sewer system. As the Tap-In/Discharge Permit holder, it is your responsibility to plan, install, and maintain appropriate waste-handling processes and facilities to prevent illicit discharges to MDOT's storm drainage system.

The checklists below offer pollution prevention strategies to help you remain in compliance with your discharge permit. MDOT's Storm Water Management Plan includes a program to eliminate illicit discharges, but we need your help.

## Do your part to keep pollutants out of storm drains!

- Keep wastes of all varieties from entering floor drains and storm drains.
- Train employees on pollution prevention activities.
- Educate customers on proper recycling and/or disposal.
- Provide trash containers in common areas and routinely empty them.
- Periodically hire a parking lot cleaning service.
- Don't overuse de-icers, follow package instructions.
- Consider "green" parking alternatives: minimize dimensions of parking spaces, use alternative pavers in overflow areas, use bioretention to treat storm water.

## Pollution Prevention Strategies by Business Type:

### Gas Stations and Oil Change Facilities

- Properly store and recycle waste oil, antifreeze and other auto fluids.
- Quickly clean up spills of all sizes and properly dispose of waste.
- Use drip pans when working to catch spills and discharges.
- Cover fueling areas to prevent storm water from picking up spilled fuel.

### Commercial Car Wash Facilities

- Ensure car wash water is discharging to sanitary sewers, not storm drains.
- Keep water traps and grates around the facility clean of trash and debris.
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free products whenever possible.

### Dry Cleaning Facilities

- Keep all containers labeled and covered to prevent evaporation and spills.
- Check equipment frequently for leaks. Make repairs immediately.
- Provide secondary containment in areas where solvents are stored.
- Keep storage and work areas clean and well organized.

### Restaurants

- Store grease away from storm drains in an airtight container.
- Never pour or rinse fat, oil or grease (FOG) down the drain - it can lead to sewer backups. Scrape or wipe off FOGs and dispose of in a sealed container.
- Keep drains clean with a vinegar and warm water rinse.



**Car wash water entering storm drain**



**Overflowing dumpster**

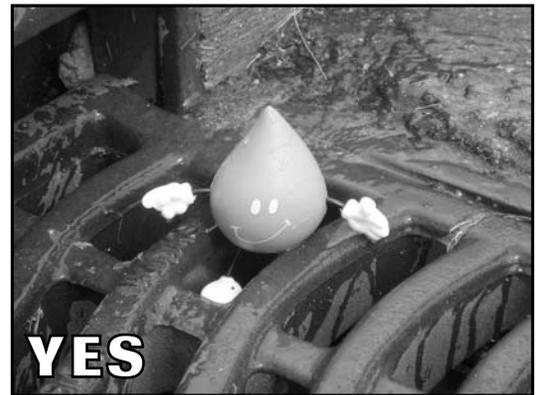
## Food for Thought:

...Only rain in the drain!

...If you can't drink it, don't dump it!

...Four quarts of motor oil = an eight-acre oil slick

...Anything on the ground (trash, de-icers, fertilizer, oil, detergent, etc.) can be carried to rivers by storm water runoff



**Only rain belongs in a storm drain**

for more information:

[www.michigan.gov/stormwatermgt](http://www.michigan.gov/stormwatermgt)



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