

Report an Illicit Discharge

Although your local waterway may have a pollution source that's obvious to you, the Town of Shelter Island may not know about it, so please report it!

One of the largest sources of nonpoint source pollution is the illegal discharge of pollutants to stormwater conveyance system. Any discharge to these systems other than stormwater is considered "illicit."

Pollutants that enter the stormwater conveyance system are NOT treated! They are discharged directly to our bays, ponds, and creeks. When these pollutants reach our waterbodies, they degrade the quality of the water and may cause beach closures, restrictions on fish and shellfish harvesting, drinking water restrictions, and loss of aquatic life and wildlife. Pollutants typically found in illicit discharges include: pathogens, nutrients, surfactants, raw sewage, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, oil, and grease.

Illicit discharges can happen directly or indirectly and may or may not be intentional. Some examples include a sewer pipe that is improperly connected to the storm drain system or the intentional dumping of oil, grease, paint, solvents or automobile fluids into storm drains. If you witness something suspect coming out of a stormwater outfall to a body of water or any type of suspect connection, please report it to the Town's Stormwater Officer at 749-0772.

