

Environmental Notice

DID YOU KNOW that improperly disposing of pollutants into the storm drainage system could be **AGAINST THE LAW?**
Fines can range as high as **\$25,000** per day.

Car Washing

Construction

Mobile Detailers

Pressure Washers

Carpet Cleaners

Grease

Paint

Sewage Discharge

Concrete

Landscapers

Pet Waste

Yard Waste

YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT:

1. Storm drains and storm drainage systems draining parking lots and streets, flow directly to streams and are designed to carry only rainwater. Storm drains are separate from sanitary sewers, which are designed to carry wastewater from sinks, toilets, etc. to facilities where they can be treated.
2. The discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters violates local laws as well as N.C. General Statute 143-215.1(a). Such violations could result in local fines of up to \$1,000 per day. Fines by the State could reach \$25,000/day/violation.
3. Improper discharges degrade the quality of the water in our streams and lakes, resulting in damage to aquatic life and potential contamination of downstream swimming areas and drinking water supplies.

**Your actions have a direct impact on the surface waters of
Charlotte-Mecklenburg.**



What You Must Do

Ensure that **water containing detergents** (even biodegradeable) or other pollutants from the

- pressure washing of any surface
- cleaning of carpets, appliances, equipment, tools, vehicles, parking lots, etc.,
 - cleaning of equipment, appliances, parking lots, etc.,
- cleaning of parts that may contain used oil, antifreeze, chemicals,
- cleaning of vehicles, parking lots, appliances, equipment, tools,
- cleaning of paint brushes, painting equipment, or tools

is not discharged to the storm drainage system, the ground, streams, lakes, or any other surface waters.

All wastewater must be **collected and discharged** into a sanitary sewer or wastewater facility upon approval of the facility's owner.

Ensure that **all yard waste** is either composted on-site or is disposed of properly. The following facilities in Mecklenburg County accept yard waste from commercial companies for a fee:

Foxhole Yard Waste Facility
17131 Lancaster Highway, (704) 341-4962

Hickory Grove Yard Waste Facility
8007 Pence Rd., (704) 535-3781

North Mecklenburg Yard Waste Facility
12300 N. Statesville Rd, (704) 875-1563

Compost Central Mulch & Composting Facility
5631 West Blvd., (704) 588-9070

Properly dispose of all **unused lawn chemicals** by taking them to a hazardous waste collection/disposal site.

Call (704) 336-5359 to locate a site near you.

Used or old paint, chemicals, any water containing pollutants generated from the cleaning of paint brushes, painting equipment, or tools and other pollutants cannot be dumped or washed into sanitary sewers, storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or to the surface of the ground. **Apply absorbent material to spills** and contain and collect the material for proper disposal.

Concrete Businesses only: Wash water may be discharged to a grassy or mulched area where water runoff is slowed and somewhat contained. Using this method, concrete particles should settle or be filtered out before the wash water reaches any part of the storm drainage system.

Ensure that **cooking grease** is disposed of properly in approved containers for recycling.

Ensure that **wash/mop water** is disposed of properly to the sanitary sewer system.

Ensure that all drains carrying wastewater from your facility discharge to the sanitary sewer system and not to the storm drainage system. Drains thought to discharge to the sanitary sewer are sometimes found to be plumbed to the storm drainage system, which discharges directly to a stream. This is particularly true at older facilities. If you are not sure, **have a plumber dye test** your drains.

To reduce the negative impacts that sewage or wastewater discharges can have on the environment and prevent fines, take action to **stop overflows** or illicit discharges immediately. You should then contact this office for more information regarding State-mandated reporting requirements.

Additional comments:

To Keep Our Water Clean.