

**Board of Stark County
Commissioners Storm Water
Education Program
330-451-7405**

Stark County Storm Water

Public Involvement/

Public Education

(P.I.P.E.) Committee Members:

City of Canton

Village of East Canton

Jackson Township

Perry Township

Plain Township

Stark County Soil & Water
Conservation District

Stark County Regional
Planning Commission

**Illicit Discharge
Detection &
Elimination**



Illicit Discharge

What is an Illicit Discharge?

Any discharge to a storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water. Storm sewers are not designed to accept, process, or discharge non-storm water wastes such as fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, yard debris, oil or grease from a car, etc.

Storm sewers collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to streams and rivers. **Sanitary sewers** collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system through either direct or indirect connections (e.g. infiltration into the system from cracked sanitary systems, improperly maintained septic systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain).

The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving waterbodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in many studies to be high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.



Septic System Maintenance

- Have your system inspected annually by a service provider and pump tank every three years.
- Avoid using any type of chemical or biological septic tank additive.
- Avoid dumping paints, household cleaners, oils, or fats down your drains.
- Avoid driving/parking vehicles on your septic system.
- Direct rainwater and surface water away from the leachfield.
- Avoid flooding your system by using too much water at one time.