



# Lower Providence Township

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## STORMWATER: DETECTING ILLICIT DISCHARGE

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP, *March 20, 2007* - As part of its ongoing Stormwater Management Program, Lower Providence Township is intensifying its efforts to detect illicit discharges into the storm sewer system and is enlisting the help of Township residents.

According to federal regulations, an “illicit discharge” is any discharge into the municipal storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater or not from a non-polluting source. Potential sources of illicit discharge are homes, apartments, car washes, restaurants, gas stations, and industrial/commercial facilities. Examples include a sanitary wastewater pipe connected directly from a home to the storm sewer; materials (such as used motor oil) dumped into a storm drain catch basin; or a shop floor drain connected to the storm sewer. Another not-so-obvious example could be a damaged sanitary sewer line that leaks fluids into a cracked storm sewer line.

While the Township routinely inspects stormwater outfalls, any help the public can provide regarding potential illicit discharges is just as important. Lower Providence residents with information on an illicit discharge to or from the storm sewer system are asked to report it using the following telephone numbers: Lower Providence Township Administration Building: 610-539-8020 (Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or PA Department of Environmental Protection: 484-250-5900 (anytime).

Additionally, the Township’s Community Development Department reminds residents of some of the most important ways to prevent storm water pollution:

- Never pour substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies or paint down any part of the storm sewer system.
- Use pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides efficiently and properly to prevent excess runoff.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make mess, in a backyard or at the park, stormwater runoff can carry pet waste to the storm sewer to a stream.
- Look for signs of pollutants leaving construction sites or being tracked into roads by construction vehicles; report potential problems to the Township.

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