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STORM WATER Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Efforts

Spring SHOULD be here soon. Let's reduce or eliminate behaviors that cause or contribute to storm water pollution.



Some Sources of Illicit Discharges: Sanitary wastewater, Car wash wastewaters, improper disposal of auto and household toxics, pet waste, fertilizers and pesticides

Some Solutions to Illicit Discharges

- Sanitary wastewater It is illegal for sump pumps and downspouts to run into sanitary sewer. They should be soaking into the ground. A backwater prevention valve should be installed to keep water out of your home in the event the sewer main is full. Do not use water in your home when mains are full, even if you have a backwater prevention valve as you will get your own water backed up in your house. Keep the sewer cleanout cap on and in good condition to prevent debris from getting in, blocking the pipe, and causing a backup. Keeping the cap on helps protect our environment from sewer overflows by keeping out rain and surface water that can overload the sewer system.
 - 1. The Bedford City Utilities is responsible for maintaining sewer mains.
 - 2. Property owners are responsible for maintaining sewer laterals.
 - 3. Property owners are responsible for clearing blockages in the entire length of sewer laterals that serve their property.
 - 4. Property owners should be aware that many property insurance policies exclude damage resulting from sewer back-ups. It is suggested that property owners check their policies and add this coverage.
- Car wash wastewaters Wash your car at a licensed car wash. If you wash your car at home, wash it in your yard so that the soap and grime will not go into the storm drains and back to a stream.
- Proper disposal of auto and household toxics The City of Bedford partners with the Lawrence County Solid Waste District located at 3326 Mitchell Rd Bedford, Indiana. Proper disposal of auto and household toxics can be taken there. The District offers Household Hazardous Waste Collection, a paint swap, and a used cooking oil collection program.
- Pet Waste Regularly scoop up and dispose of pet wastes in your yard. Bag pet wastes and dispose of
 the bags in the garbage. Do not compost pet wastes because they may contain harmful diseases or
 bacteria as well as the plant nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Landscape practices Use a mulching lawnmower. This can reduce fertilizer use by about 25 percent. The City of Bedford sanitation department offers compost toters for grass, rose clippings, garden waste, small sticks, leaves, and plant clippings. Call the city and we will empty your toter (for no extra charge) at the curb.
- Pesticide control Consider controlling the pest without a pesticide. Use the least toxic and most readily degradable pesticide. Read and follow the pesticide label carefully. Pay special attention to warnings about use near water and safety precautions. Do not apply pesticides when it is windy to avoid the possibility of drift. Purchase only the amount of pesticide needed to control the problem each season. Dispose of waste pesticides properly. Do not pour them on the ground or into storm drains, surface waters, or sanitary treatment systems.

CONTACT THE CITY OF BEDFORD STORMWATER DEPARTMENT HOTLINE at 812-275-1641 or E-mail madamsObedford.in.us or Visit our website at www.bedford.in.us and click on the quick links Bedford Storm Water website for more information.