

**Non-permitted discharges occur either:**

- **DIRECTLY**, where pipes or hoses either mistakenly or deliberately flow into the storm drain.



OR

- **INDIRECTLY**, where pollutants seep into the storm drain system (e.g., faulty septic systems), are dumped into the storm drain (e.g., paint, used motor oil), or are washed in with a storm (e.g., fertilizers, pet waste).



Ideally, the only thing that should leave your property and enter a storm drain is rainwater – clean, uncontaminated rainwater.

Recognizing potential hazards to surface waters and removing them is one simple but effective way everyone can help the quality of our waters.

By reducing the number of pollutants entering the storm drain system you will help to ensure that our waters are safe for drinking, wildlife and recreation.

For a more comprehensive list and guidance for what you can do to improve stormwater, go to the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and search "stormwater."

**Wachusett Reservoir Watershed**  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Water Supply Protection  
180 Beaman Street  
West Boylston, MA 01583  
508-792-7806  
[www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm)  
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## **Non-permitted Discharges to the Storm Drain System**

Anything that enters a storm drain or directly into a river that is **NOT** stormwater is an *illicit discharge* (or *non permitted discharge*) and is against the law.



Non-permitted discharges contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses and bacteria to streams, lakes, and rivers.

Most communities now have a Stormwater By-Law or Ordinance that protects and regulates the storm drain system. Violations could result in fines!

### What types of things are non-permitted\* discharges?

- Sanitary wastewater
- Effluent from septic tanks
- Car wash wastewaters
- Improper oil disposal
- Radiator flushing disposal
- Laundry wastewaters
- Spills from roadway accidents
- Improper disposal of household toxics
- Chlorinated water from pools or hot tubs
- Pet waste

\* Industrial facilities and several other discharges can be permitted by the EPA to discharge to surface waters.

### What can **You** do about non-permitted discharges?

- Sweep extra fertilizer, grass clippings or dirt back onto your lawn from driveways or roads. Never hose your driveway down.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, trash and fertilizers away from any storm drains or road shoulders.
- Never dump motor oil, chemicals, dirty or soapy water, or anything else, down a storm drain.
- Pick up after your pet, even in your own yard.
- Store hazardous chemicals properly, and take hazardous waste to a collection event.
- Wash your vehicle on a lawn where the water can soak into the ground.

#### If you notice:

- Anyone dumping anything into a storm drain.
- Unusual odors in or near the storm drain.
- Dumped wastes in or near the storm drain.
- Flowing water in the storm drain during dry periods.
- Unusual colors or staining in or around a storm drain.

Contact your DPW. Please have a good description of where the drain is located.

*What goes in here ...*



*... comes out here.*

### The EPA MS4 Program...at a glance:

The storm drain system in your community (with the exception of Princeton) is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit program. When this permit is issued to your town, the EPA is giving approval to your town to discharge stormwater to surface waters - with the understanding that **only clean stormwater will be discharged**. Your town then becomes responsible for ensuring that nothing enters the system that can pollute our lakes, rivers and streams.

Non permitted discharges can cause your town to be fined by the EPA since they are violations of the town's permit!