

STORMWATER REGULATIONS

EPA has recognized that urban stormwater runoff is one of the biggest contributors of pollution to our nation's waterways and wetlands. In order to protect these waterways, the EPA required Washington to create a program that guides cities and counties in their efforts to reduce stormwater pollution. In response, the Washington State Department of Ecology created the Eastern Washington Stormwater Phase II NPDES Permit. Under the new rules, cities and counties are required to create a stormwater management plan that details how they will reduce stormwater pollution within their city limits.

The City of Richland is meeting this permit requirement by developing ordinances that will manage stormwater discharges and curtail illicit discharges to our storm system.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION ELIMINATION (IDDE) PROGRAM

An "illicit discharge" is defined as any discharge into the City's storm system that is not composed entirely of stormwater (that is, water that originates during precipitation events and snow/ice melt), with the exception of water from firefighting. Some examples of an illicit discharge are:

- Used oil dumped in a catch basin
- Excessive fertilizer washed down the sidewalk into the gutter when watering your lawn
- Draining your pool or hot tub into the gutter without first removing the chlorine
- Washing out a concrete truck in the catch basin
- Dumping a load of topsoil or landscaping rock in the gutter for use later

If you see a suspicious discharge, call the Illegal Spill Hotline (509) 942-7480.

CONSTRUCTION & POST-CONSTRUCTION

The City passed an ordinance June 2010 requiring erosion and sediment controls on construction sites disturbing greater than or equal to one acre and construction sites that are less than one acre but are part of a common plan of development. Construction projects will be required to:

- Obtain a Right-of-Way Construction permit
- Implement erosion controls to prevent sediment and other pollution from leaving the construction site
- Use the Stormwater Management Manual of Eastern WA as technical guidance for stormwater facility design, construction site planning and management.

And private property owners are required to properly operate and maintain their stormwater facilities to prevent discharge of pollutants to the City's storm sewer system.

CONTACTS

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Illicit / Illegal Discharges

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Construction

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