

Local Regulations

- The City of Valparaiso has a Stormwater Ordinance which prohibits the discharge of substance into a stormwater conveyance other than stormwater or an exempted discharge.
- Any person discharging stormwater shall effectively minimize pollutants to the maximum extent practicable through the use of best management practices (BMPs).
- Any person who discharges into a water body any substance other than stormwater or an exempted discharge shall immediately inform the City of Valparaiso Engineering Department and Fire Department concerning the discharge.
- Any person found in violation may be subject to Civil Infraction, Fines, Stop Work Orders, and/or Access to Stormwater Drainage System Terminated.
- City's Stormwater Ordinance can be found at <https://online.encodeplus.com/regs/valparaiso-in/>.

Illicit Discharge is Illegal!

Exempted Discharges

- Water line and hydrant flushing for maintenance;
- Irrigation water;
- Uncontaminated footing, foundation, and crawl space drains;
- Uncontaminated excess storm sewer cleaning water not collected by a vacuum truck;
- Water from fire suppression activities;
- Uncontaminated ground water;
- Springs;
- Residential car washing;
- Non-commercial car washing by community organizations;
- External building washdown water without detergents;
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges;
- Pavement wash waters provided spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have not occurred and where detergents are not used;
- Uncontaminated condensate from air conditioning units, coolers, and other compressors, and from outside storage of refrigerated gases or liquids.

Prevent Illicit Discharges to Protect Water Quality



MS4 Stormwater Program

City of Valparaiso

166 Lincolnway

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: (219) 462-1161

Email: MS4@valpo.us

Website: ci.valparaiso.in.us/MS4



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VALPARAISO

What is an Illicit Discharge?

- Generally, an Illicit Discharge is any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, with some exceptions.

Why is Illicit Discharge a concern?

- Illicit discharges are hazardous, significantly degrading water quality and threatening aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

Signs of an Illicit Discharge

- Unusual water color, oily sheen, foam, suds, turbidity
- Smell or fumes
- Discarded drums or other containers and materials
- Brown or dead plants around an outfall
- Sick or dead animals around an outfall
- Personal symptoms (burning eyes, nose or skin, nausea or headache)



Common Illicit Discharges

- Since we all live in a watershed, our land use activities may generate pollutants. Even over application of chemicals on lawns such as fertilizer can pollute our water. Common sources of Illicit Discharges include but are not limited to:
 - Sanitary wastewater
 - Laundry and other wash water
 - Paints, cleaners or chemicals
 - Oil, gas, transmission or other vehicle fluids
 - Cooking oil or grease
 - Pet waste
 - Concrete washout water
 - Litter or other illegal dumping



What you Can Do

- Report potential illicit discharge to (219) 462-1161, MS4@valpo.us, or through Voice A Concern at <https://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/>.
- **Never** dump anything in a storm drain or into a drainage ditch.
- Clean up after your pet. Pet waste is a significant source of pathogens.
- Throw litter in its proper place. If you see garbage near a storm drain, pick it up.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides only when needed, and always follow the label instructions.
- Regularly check your vehicles for leaks (and repair them).
- Properly dispose of household or garage chemicals at designated locations. Porter County Household Hazardous Waste Collection events can be found at: <https://portercountyrecycling.org/household-hazardous-waste/>
- Wash vehicles in the yard, not on pavement. Better yet, take your car to a carwash, where all wastewater flows into the sanitary sewer system for treatment.
- Ensure your home does not have any cross-connections between storm and sanitary system.