

**PUTNAM VALLEY  
CENTRAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
PUTNAM VALLEY, NY**

**MS4PY4 STORMWATER  
PROGRAM**

**FACT SHEET # 4  
APRIL 2014**

**POLLUTION PREVENTION OF  
ILLICIT DISCHARGES**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
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**1. Stormwater Runoff: Prevention of Illicit Discharges**

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground, but runs off into nearby streams and lakes. The runoff attributable to precipitation from rain or melting snow is considered as “wet-weather” runoff. In addition to “wet-weather” run-off, nearby streams and lakes are also subject to “dry-weather” flows or “illicit discharges” from non-stormwater discharges that enter the storm drainage system through direct and indirect connections. Minimum Measure 3 of the Phase II Stormwater regulations requires the District to identify, detect and eliminate illicit discharges (IDDE) that may enter a storm sewer system.

**2. Potential Pollutants from Dry-Weather and Wet-Weather Flows**

Sources of illicit discharges may include:

- sewage from overflowing septic fields
- oils and greases from parking lots from improperly maintained automobiles
- sand, salt and other de-icing chemicals not picked up after winter season
- chlorinated swimming pool discharges
- sediment and other chemicals from construction sites not properly maintained
- improper disposal of floor cleaning chemicals
- contaminated pumped water from building sumps
- Improperly covered trash containers located near storm drains

**3. District Outfall Screening and Survey of Yard Operations**

As a part of the program to identify illicit discharges, the District, conducts an Annual Inspection Program of all Stormwater Outfalls and the District Yard Operations to determine potential sources of illicit discharges to nearby storm drains. The new permit requires the District to include documentation and a self-assessment of all District operations/performances that could potentially impact stormwater discharges. These operations include:

- Winter roads, driveways and parking lots maintenance

- Salt/sand and material storage area operations
- Vehicle/building maintenance
- Solid waste/trash areas collection and operations
- Onsite wastewater maintenance
- Athletic/recreational field maintenance
- New construction and land disturbance

After screening and survey, all potential sources of illicit discharges are identified and brought to the attention of the Stormwater Coordinator for prompt corrective actions.

#### **4. O & M Staff Training**

As part of the pollution prevention campaign on illicit discharges, the District must undertake a training program for their O & M Staff. The training program includes the distribution of educational materials on the proper handling and disposal of solid waste and non-stormwater discharges from vehicle operations, physical plant maintenance and landscaping and grounds care.

#### **5. Remember: Only Rain In The Drain**

To keep stormwater pollution out of our water bodies, we must learn to adopt environmentally friendly habits and simple guidelines summarized below.

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Check your car and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills and make needed repairs as soon as possible
- Clean up spilled fluids with absorbent materials like kitty litter or sand and remember to properly dispose of absorbent materials
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at a participating service station. Do not dump these fluids into a storm drain or dispose of them into your trash

#### **Lawn And Garden**

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought resistant
- Compost or recycle yard waste
- Vegetate bare spots to prevent soil erosion
- Cover exposed soil and backfill materials during a landscaping construction project

#### **Home Repair and Improvements**

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drain to insure that debris other materials from your home repair project does not enter the drain
- Sweep up after completion of your repair project and remember to properly dispose of waste materials and debris
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable and recyclable products in your home repair and improvements project
- Properly dispose excess paints through a household and hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations

#### **Swimming Pools**

- Drain your swimming pool only when your chlorine test kit detects no chlorine
- Whenever possible, drain your swimming pool/spa filter backwash water into a sanitary sewer system
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in covered containers or a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater

#### **Pet Care**

- Pick up and dispose pet waste properly
- Flushing pet waste is best disposal method
- Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria to migrate into the storm drain and eventually into your drinking water supply and other water bodies

#### **Septic System Use and Maintenance**

- Have your septic system inspected and cleaned by a professional at least every three years
- Only plant grass over your septic fields and do not drive or park vehicles over the fields
- Do not flush household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil and antifreeze, as these chemicals will destroy the biological treatment system taking place in the system
- Other items such as diapers, paper towels and cat litter can clog the septic system and potentially damage components