

LET'S TALK ABOUT DISCHARGES INTO STORM DRAINS



Storm drains (also referred to as storm sewers) are used to control stormwater runoff only. Stormwater runoff is water from the rain which flows from streets, lawns and rooftops over the ground or pavement without soaking into the ground. The storm drain system includes residential swale areas, roadside ditches, gutters, inlets, catch basins, and underground pipes that collect stormwater and carry it away from our streets, parking lots and yards into nearby waterways. **Water entering storm drains does not go**

through a sewage treatment plant, but flows directly into nearby waterways without treatment. Therefore, nothing should ever be placed or allowed to enter into a storm drain except rain water – “only rain down the drain”.

What to do if you notice pollutants entering the storm drain system: The pouring of illegal chemicals, oils, paints, etc., into storm drains is of prime concern. Unfortunately, many people use storm drains to dispose of used oil, grass cuttings, dog feces, etc. If you notice this happening, do not confront individuals. Never approach anyone dumping or disposing of hazardous materials into a storm drain. Instead:

Call the City of Wilton Manor's Code Enforcement Division at (954) 390-2185 and then call Broward County's Environmental Response Hotline at (954) 519-1499

Be prepared to give the following details:

- The location of the incident, including cross streets, landmarks, city and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Physical description of the person conducting the activity, company name or logo (if any), and description of any vehicles nearby
- Labels or markings on containers, if visible

Since most storm drains discharge directly into surface water bodies, anything put into a storm drain system has the potential to: negatively impact surface water quality; kill aquatic organisms or impair their health, growth or ability to reproduce; foul drinking water; and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.



Excerpted from Broward County's Pollution Prevention & Remediation Division webpage: http://www.broward.org/pprd/er_help.htm