

An illicit discharge is “any discharge that is not composed entirely of stormwater” (Environmental Protection Agency). Since sewer systems in our area transport water directly into our waterbodies, it is important that stormwater is as clean as possible. The result of untreated illicit discharges includes high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria entering our waterbodies. These pollutants degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District is committed to reducing pollutants to our waterbodies. By reducing illicit discharges, we keep our waters clean and healthy.



*Oily substances are a sure sign that an illicit discharge has occurred.
Source: Wikipedia.*

Detection:

Signs of an illicit discharge can include (but are not limited to):

- Staining
- Residues
- Oily Substances
- Odors
- Abnormal flow during dry weather periods
- Cloudy waters
- Suds

FAST FACTS

- **Storm sewers drain directly to:**

Local waterbodies such as lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands

- **The most common illicit discharge from homes is:**

Yard waste, including leaves, grass clippings, and fertilizers

- **Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility Contact Information:**

*Address: 588 Country Trail E,
Jordan, MN 55352*

24-Hr. Info Line: 952-496-8787

Common Sources:

Illicit discharges come in many forms. Often times it is our every-day actions which cause damage to local waters. Common illicit discharges include:

- Yard waste
- De-icing materials
- Motor oil
- Pet waste
- Gasoline
- Paint
- Pesticides



Drain art helps remind citizens not to dump anything into sewer drains. Photo courtesy of the MPCA.

How to Prevent Illicit Discharges:

Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep pollutants from entering the water. BMPs vary based on activity. Below are a list of activities that landowners can do to prevent illicit discharges:

- Do not dump any substances into the storm sewer inlets or bodies of water, including the Prior Lake Outlet Channel
- Rake leaves and grass clippings from lawns and deposit in a compost facility
- Store materials that could pollute indoors, in waterproof containers that will not rust
- Wash vehicles at a designated facility
- Recycle and re-use oil filters
- Do not top off vehicles when filling up the gas tank
- Recycle chemicals (i.e. motor oil, paint, pesticides, etc.) at a local collection center



Raking leaves in your yard or at a Clean Water Clean-Up event helps reduce nutrients in lakes.



PLSLWD staff monitoring the Prior Lake Outlet Channel.

What Can You do to Help?

If you notice an illicit discharge, please contact the PLSLWD office: 952-447-4166

In case of an emergency spill, please contact Diane Lynch, PLSLWD Administrator: 952-440-0067

What does the PLSLWD do about Illicit Discharge?

The PLSLWD is regulated by a Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit granted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). As part of this permit the District is required to develop, implement, and enforce an illicit discharge detection and elimination program. Some of the ways the District addresses illicit discharges include:

- Monitoring the Prior Lake Outlet Channel weekly and/or after a rainfall event greater than 0.5 inches in 24 hours
- Sampling flowing discharges for pollutants to locate problem areas and sources
- Engaging the public through activities such as the Clean Water Clean Up events
- Monitoring construction sites
- Implementing pollution prevention projects and policies
- Providing resources for implementation of best management practices such as buffers

PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

4646 Dakota Street SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 952-447-4166 ♦ Email: info@plslwd.org

Mission: to manage and preserve the water resources of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District to the best of our ability using input from our communities, sound engineering practices, and our ability to efficiently fund beneficial projects.