

Remember

- What we do on land affects the quality of water we use in so many ways.
- Many small sources of pollution add up to cause big water quality problems.
- Natural things such as soil, leaves, grass clippings and pet waste can cause water pollution.
- Illegal discharges dumped into storm sewers ends up in our local lakes, streams and the Mississippi River without treatment.
- Fluids from cars and other vehicles cause water pollution.

Everyone can make a difference !



Reporting Illegal Dumping or Suspicious Discharges



To control illegal dumping, vigilance from the public is vital.

To maximize protection of our waterways, time is of the essence.

If you observe illegal dumping or see and/or smell conditions in the waterways, curbs and drains that seem out of place, contact the City immediately by phone and/or email to report the problem.

We appreciate your help.



City of Robbinsdale

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City of Robbinsdale

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination



How You Can Help Keep Our Lakes and Creeks Clean

What is an Illicit Discharge ?

An illicit discharge is defined as –

“any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater”.

Pollutants that typically fall into this broad category are –

- Car wash wastewater
- Concrete wash water
- Fertilizers
- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings and leaves
- Household cleansers
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Pet waste
- Sediment
- Solvents
- Vehicle spills
- Weed killer

These pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind or improper disposal and can find their way into our local lakes, creeks and eventually into the Mississippi River.

The presence of these pollutants causes serious water quality problems that can cause health problems. In addition, wildlife and the overall appearance of these water bodies are adversely impacted by these discharges.

Easy Ways You Can Keep Illicit Discharges Out of Our Lakes and Creeks

There are some easy steps everyone can take to help solve the water quality problems that our lakes and creeks face. It is up to the residents and business owners who call Robbinsdale home to keep it clean !

- **Used oil, antifreeze and batteries** can be recycled. Clean up any spills immediately with sawdust or kitty litter to absorb the spill. Be sure to sweep up and properly dispose of.



- Wash your car on the grass so that the **water, detergent and dirt** will be filtered by the soil. Another option is to use a commercial car wash where the dirty water is sent to the wastewater treatment plant.
- Empty bottles of **household cleanser, pesticides and weed killer** should be disposed of according to label directions.
- **Grass clippings and leaves** in the street should be swept up. If left in the street, the materials are being washed into the stormsewer system where they can plug up the pipes or catch basins causing flooding in the street. They are also transported to the nearest lake or creek where they can contribute to the creation of algal blooms.

- Many household products including **paint, paint thinners and solvents** can be taken to the hazardous waste dump or recycled. Paint brushes used with water based paint can be rinsed in the sink. Small amounts of left over paint can be allowed to dry or absorbed by newspaper or kitty litter. Once completely dry, it can be placed in the trash.



- When walking your pet use a bag or scooper to clean up the **pet waste**. In order to keep animal waste from contaminating our community, anyone who walks a pet should properly dispose of waste by picking it up, wrapping it and EITHER placing it in the trash OR flushing it UNWRAPPED.
- Apply **fertilizer and pesticides** according to label instructions. Applying too much is not beneficial and the extra will run off into the drains. In addition, applying just before or during rain will cause it to run off and contaminate our lakes and creeks.

