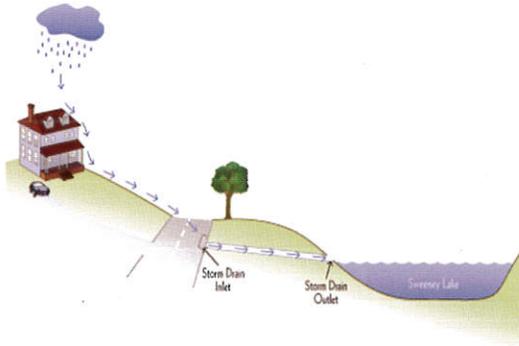


What is the City of Griffin's Storm Sewer System?

Stormwater is the water from rain, melting snow or ice, which flows over the ground or pavement without soaking into the ground.

The Storm Sewer System includes the roadside ditches, gutters, inlets, catch basins, and underground pipes that collect stormwater and carry it out away from streets, parking lots, and yards.



Waters include the streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes in the City of Griffin and also Spalding county.

Did you know? Anything that is washed into the storm sewer system ends up in city or county waters? That's because, unlike the wastewater from our kitchens and bathrooms, stormwater is not treated before it's released into our waters.

How Can I Help make difference?

- Properly use and store all hazardous household products, including cleaners, solvents and paints.
- Be an environmentally aware consumer. Buy nontoxic products for use in your home and garden whenever possible.
- Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers carefully and sparingly.
- Conserve water and reduce the amount of runoff by not over-watering your lawns and gardens.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up garden clippings, dirt and litter from sidewalks, patios and driveways.
- Compost yard trimmings and leaves. Do not sweep them into the streets or catch basins.
- Divert rain spouts and other sources of runoff onto grass or vegetation.
- Dispose of pet waste in trash cans. Leaving it on the lawn sends harmful bacteria into storm drains whenever you water or when it rains.
- Donate unwanted paint, fertilizer, etc. to friends or community organizations.
- When changing car fluids, use a drip pan to collect any spills.
- Wash your car with biodegradable soap using as little water as possible. Shut off the hose while washing your car and then to rinse.
- Keep a trash bag in the car and use it! Do not throw anything out the window.
- Keep your car maintained to reduce leaking of oil, antifreeze and other fluids.
- Buy batteries, anti-freeze and motor oil from stores that will recycle used products.

**Remember one person caring,
makes a difference!**

ILLICIT DISCHARGE ORDINANCE



City of Griffin
Public Works Department
P.O Box T
100 South Hill Street 3rd Floor
Griffin, Georgia 30224
770-229-6603 Office
770-229-6613 Fax

In 2007, The City of Griffin Enacted an **Illicit Discharge Ordinance**, which makes it illegal to discharge pollutants to the storm sewer system or to any city or county water ways.

The City of Griffin's Illicit Discharge Ordinance is required by the 1972 Clean Water Act. It is designed to help maintain and protect the quality of water in our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes.

What does this ordinance prohibit?

Directly Discharging anything that is not composed entirely of stormwater into the storm sewer system or into city or state waters is prohibited.

Connecting any structure that carries any liquid other than stormwater to the storm sewer or to city or state waters also is prohibited.

What is the penalty for a violation?



Anyone who knowingly violates the Illicit Discharge Ordinance can be given a citation to appear before the municipal court.

Violations can result in a civil penalty—a fine of \$1000.00 per day or 6 months imprisonment or both.

Violators also will have to pay for the cost of testing, cleaning up, and disposal of their pollutants.

What does the ordinance allow?

- Watering lawns and irrigating landscapes
- Flushing water lines
- Condensation from air conditioners
- Run off from springs and drinking water sources
- Discharges from fighting fires
- Discharges that are allowed under the terms of a federal, state or city permit

However, if any of these activities are found to be causing water pollution, the City of Griffin will ask the activity to be stopped or be conducted differently so that our waters are not polluted.

How can I prevent Stormwater Pollution at home?



Never dump motor oil, antifreeze, or any other chemicals down the storm drain. One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water! If you spill motor oil or other fluids, don't hose the spill into the gutter or ditch or onto land. Instead, spread kitty litter to absorb the spill, then sweep it up and put in the trash. Inspect and maintain your car to keep oil, antifreeze, and other fluids from leaking.



Brushes used with water-based (latex) paint should be rinsed in the sink. If you have a small amount of paint left in the can, stuff it loosely with newspaper, let the paint dry out completely, and put it in the trash. Save and reuse paint thinner and turpentine whenever you can.



Try to minimize your use of pesticides and herbicides (insect and weed killers). They are deadly to fish, birds, and other wildlife. If you must use them, make sure you are using the right product and the right amount. In some cases the County Extension Service can help you find out what is causing damage to your plants if you are not sure.



It's better to fertilize your lawn in the fall than in the spring. Get a soil test kit and find out what nutrients your yard really needs. Look for low phosphate fertilizers. Most mature lawns need more nitrogen than phosphate.



Do Not Place leaves and grass clippings into ditches, storm drains, or creeks. They clog storm sewers, which can cause flooding. Decaying leaves and grass add excess nutrients to our waters, which can cause algae to grow too fast and kill fish. **Never blow your leaves or grass clippings into the street.** This too causes storm sewers to clog causing flooding that can cause roads to be unsafe during rain events.



Recycle. Compost your leaves and grass clippings, and use the compost to enrich and condition your soil. Swimming pool cleaning can also be a recycled product. By using the water either by draining your pool or just normal filter cleaning to water your lawn or flower beds.



Put pet waste in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash can, or flush it down the toilet. When pet waste is left on the ground, harmful bacteria can be carried away by stormwater to contaminate our creeks, streams and rivers that lead to drinking water lakes.