

Good & Bad



GOOD: Only Rain in the Drain! The water drains to the river.



BAD: Grass and leaves blown into a storm drain interfere with drainage. Dirt is also being allowed in our waterways.

Potential Illicit Discharge Sources:

- Sanitary sewer wastewater.
- Effluent from septic tanks.
- Laundry wastewater.
- Improper disposal of auto and household toxics.
- Industrial byproduct discharge.



Stormwater Ordinance

Leaf & Grass Blowing into Storm Drains

Lafayette Parish



**Environmental Quality
Regulatory Compliance
1515 E. University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70501
Phone: 337-291-8529
Fax: 337-291-5620**

www.lafayettela.gov/stormwater

Illicit Discharge (including leaf blowing)

Stormwater Ordinance

Please be advised that the Environmental Quality Division of Lafayette Consolidated Government has recently adopted an

Illicit Discharge (including leaf blowing) Stormwater Ordinance

Chapter 34. ENVIRONMENT

Article 5. STORMWATER

Division 4 Sec. 34-452

It is now in effect and being enforced. You may access this ordinance online at www.lafayettela.gov or you may call our office at (337) 291-8529 and we will send you a copy by mail.

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of Lafayette Parish citizens by regulating, to the maximum extent practicable as required by state and federal law, discharges of unacceptable materials (example: oil, dirt, debris) into the storm drainage system.

POSSIBLE PENALTIES

First Offense: \$250.00 per day per offense.

Second Offense: \$500.00 per day per offense.

Third Offense and thereafter: \$1,000.00 per day per offense.

Stormwater Runoff

Grass clippings and leaves blown or swept into storm drains or into the street harms waterways and our river. Storm drains flow into coulees and into the Vermilion River. Grass clippings in the river rob valuable oxygen from our Vermilion River.

When leaf and grass clippings enter the storm drain, flooding can occur. Only rain must enter the storm drain. When anything but rain goes down the storm drain, it can become a drainage problem.

Grass clippings left on the ground improve the health of the lawn itself. There is no excuse for sweeping grass and/or leaves into the storm drains or waterways. Stormwater runoff from lawn maintenance is a contributor of water pollution and can harm water bodies by:

- Increasing the levels of sediment and suspended solids, which lower oxygen levels in water bodies.
- Increasing nutrients (nitrogen & phosphorus that are found in washing detergents) that also lower oxygen levels and reduces water quality.
- Over-applying yard chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides) results in them washing away into nearby waterways.



**REMEMBER
ONLY RAIN
DOWN THE
DRAIN!**

Illicit Discharge

is defined by the EPA as:

Any discharge into a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of rainwater and is not authorized by permit.

Signs of Potential Illicit Discharge

- Heavy flow during dry weather.
- Strong odor.
- Colorful or discolored liquid.
- Evidence of dumping into waterway.

Things to do around your home

- In your yard, incorporate low maintenance native plants that will require less water, fertilizer and pesticides and therefore can reduce harmful runoff. Use only the amount of pesticide and fertilizer recommended.
- Wash your vehicle over a grassy area to prevent detergents from running off into storm drains.
- Do not put grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste into the storm drain, swale, ditch or coulee.
- Properly dispose of hazardous materials including **paints, antifreeze, other toxic chemicals** and recycle oil.