

### **What are illicit discharges?**

Per the State of Michigan NPDES Permit, an illicit discharge means any discharge (or seepage) to the separate storm water drainage system that is not composed entirely of storm water or uncontaminated groundwater. Examples of illicit discharges include dumping of motor vehicle fluids, household hazardous wastes, grass clippings, leaf litter, or animal wastes, or unauthorized discharges of untreated wastewater, industrial waste, restaurant wastes, or any other non-storm water waste into a separate storm water drainage system. A separate storm water drainage system is a system design to drain storm water such as a pipe, conduit, ditch, open drain, swale, or any other type of conveyance system which drains storm water directly to our regions rivers, streams, lakes or the Great Lakes.

### **To prevent pollution of storm water:**

- ▶ Keep pet waste cleaned up from: lawns, sidewalks, and streets and away from drainage ditches and storm drains.
- ▶ Keep fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides off paved surfaces and out of drainage paths. Use minimal amounts and follow all label directions.
- ▶ Do not wash or sweep debris, or spilled materials, into storm drains.
- ▶ Conserve the amount of water you use! Extra water overwhelms wastewater treatment plants and water retention basins, especially during heavy rains, and contributes to combined wastewater overflows.
- ▶ Do not dispose of grass clippings, leaves, brush or other lawn and garden waste in a drain, ditch, or street with a storm sewer.
- ▶ Make certain that all of the wastewater and wastewater from your home or business is directed to a sanitary sewer or a properly functioning and approved on-site septic system.
- ▶ Properly operate and maintain your on-site septic system. Discharges from malfunctioning systems can impair water quality (including the water quality at public bathing beaches). Septic system maintenance information is available from the Sanilac County Health Department.
- ▶ Dispose of household chemicals, automotive fluid waste, and other household hazardous waste materials properly, not in storm drains.
- ▶ Discharge boat or recreational vehicle waste only at approved disposal locations.
- ▶ When washing cars, direct wash water away from streets and storm drains. Consider washing your car on the lawn so that wash water can be absorbed and filtered.