



Phase II Storm Water Program

Winter 2025

Illicit Discharges and You!

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines illicit discharges as "... any discharge into a storm drain system that is not entirely composed of stormwater. The exceptions include water from firefighting activities and discharges from facilities already covered under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit."

The City of Phenix City takes illicit discharges seriously because it directly impacts the quality of life and health of our community. Any oil, grease, or chemical that flows into the storm drain system in your neighborhood makes its way into a stream and eventually into the Chattahoochee River, which is the main source of our drinking water. In fact, the Chattahoochee River is important not just



to Phenix City and Columbus it also provides drinking water to more than five million people.

Knowing this, one of the most effective things we can do to keep our rivers, lakes, and other sources of drinking water clean is to reduce non-stormwater discharges into our storm sewer system. Phenix City has an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Plan (IDDE Plan) in place which details how the City deals with these issues. There are also ordinances in place that allow us to implement and enforce this plan. This IDDE Plan can be found in the Storm Water Management Program Plan (SWMPP) found on the City's stormwater webpage.

In summary, remember to never pour oil, grease, or chemicals into your yard, down your drain, or into the curb and gutter. You can also report any illicit discharges you come across by visiting the City's website and going to the Action Center webpage.

If you have any questions on proper disposal methods for oil, grease, and other substances you may call the Phenix City Engineering Department at 334-448-2760. Links to the City's SWMPP, Action Center, and other helpful resources can be found below.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our city and environment clean!

Helpful Links:

[National Menu of Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Stormwater-Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination](#)

[Stormwater Best Management Practice – Preventing Stormwater Contamination from Sanitary Sewage](#)

[City of Phenix City - Stormwater Webpage](#)

[City of Phenix City - Action Center](#)

