



City of Cordele
Public Works Department
808 East 11th Avenue
Cordele, Ga 31015
(229) 273-6136

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The Cordele Storm Water Management Program & You

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What is the Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)?

Simply put, the SWMP is a collection of “plan-of-action” items to help keep our community and State waters clean. The SWMP covers six main topic areas:

- ◇ Public Education and Outreach
- ◇ Public Involvement and Participation
- ◇ Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- ◇ Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
- ◇ Post Construction Stormwater Management
- ◇ Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Measures

Within each of these areas are items that help inform the public and help maintain a clean, safe, and properly functioning stormwater infrastructure.

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An Illicit Discharge into the stormwater system basically means placing any substance into the system that may be toxic to human, animal, or plant life. It could also include something that is flammable, explosive, or corrosive. In short, any discharge that adversely affects our public water (ditches, streams, lakes, rivers, etc.).

Illicit or illegal discharges may include but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ Dumping auto fluids (oils, antifreeze, etc.)
- ◆ Chemicals
- ◆ Garbage
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Cleaning Fluids
- ◆ Untreated animal waste
- ◆ Commercial car wash wastewater
- ◆ Contaminated foundation drains

Did you know?

Storm drains are typically **NOT** treated! **They flow DIRECTLY into streams or rivers!**

- ◆ Wash water from commercial and industrial activities
- ◆ Sanitary sewer discharges
- ◆ Septic tank discharges
- ◆ Washing machine discharges
- ◆ Chlorinated backwash
- ◆ Drained swimming pool water that has not been de-chlorinated

Why worry about what goes in the storm drain?

You may not realize it, but water that goes into the storm drains is not treated. The maze of pipework and ditches that flow throughout the City is ultimately discharged to a point that flows back to a creek, stream, lake, or river. Unfortunately, not only does the storm water go into this pipe system, but also anything else that is washed into it. This can include leaves, natural debris, household garbage, as well as oil and chemicals from cars and trucks. These items pollute the waters that we swim in, fish in, and boat on. The chemicals and contamination can be ingested by fish and other aquatic life.

Not only does it contaminate the water, but debris entering the storm drain can stop the proper flow of water. Raking or “blowing” leaves into the drain is not only illegal, it poses a potentially dangerous situation. The storm system is designed to take water away quickly during a rain storm. If leaves and other debris are in the pipes, or on the storm grates, blockages could occur. This could cause localized flooding making it dangerous for pedestrians and motorists alike!

In order to combat these potentially dangerous situations, the City of Cordele has a dedicated team that regularly checks and cleans the drains throughout the City.

Want more information?

Visit us online at

www.cordeleengineering.com

