

## What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is defined as “any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater”. Some of the pollutants that fall into this broad category are:

- Car wash wastewater
- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings
- Household cleansers
- Paints
- Pesticides
- Pet waste
- Solvents
- Weed killer



Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or improper disposal into the Wichita River. This can result in serious health and water quality problems. In addition wildlife and the overall appearance of the river are adversely affected by illicit discharges.

## Six Easy Ways That You Can Keep Illicit Discharges Out of The Wichita River

There are simple steps that we can take to solve the problems that the Wichita River faces. It is up to YOU, the homeowner and business owners who call Wichita Falls home, to clean it up and to help keep it clean!

1. **Used oil, antifreeze, and batteries** can be recycled. Clean up any spills immediately - kitty litter or sawdust will absorb the spill. Be sure to sweep these up as well.



2. Wash your car on the grass so that the **water, detergent, and dirt** will be filtered by the soil. Better yet, take your car to

a commercial car wash, where the dirty water is sent to the wastewater treatment plant.



3. Empty bottles of **household cleansers, pesticides, and weed killer** should be disposed of according to label directions.



4. **Grass clippings** in the street should be swept up after each mowing. Grass clippings left in the street are being washed down into the storm sewers and end up in the Wichita River where they have the potential to cause algae blooms.

5. Many household products, including **paints, paint thinners, and solvents** can be taken to Sanitation Offices. Paint brushes used with water based paint can be rinsed in the sink. If you have a small amount of



leftover paint in a can, stuff it loosely with newspaper, let the paint dry out completely, and put it in the trash.

6. When walking your pet use a bag or use a scooper to clean up your **pet's waste**. In order to keep animal waste from contaminating our community, anyone who walks a pet should properly dispose of waste by picking it up, wrapping it, and either placing it into the trash or flushing it UNWRAPPED!