

## Visit the Following Web Sites for More Details on Water Pollution:

- **Maryland's Stormwater Management Program**  
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/Water/Pages/Programs/WaterPrograms/index.asp>
- **Center for Watershed's Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Guidance Manual**  
[http://cwp.org/documents/cat\\_view/78-other-center-publications.htm](http://cwp.org/documents/cat_view/78-other-center-publications.htm) (login required to download documents)
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Illicit Discharges**  
<http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/idde.cfm>
- **NPDES Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**  
[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmeps/index.cfm?action=min\\_measure&min\\_measure\\_id=3](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmeps/index.cfm?action=min_measure&min_measure_id=3)

### Emergency Numbers for Pollution Problems

#### Fish Kills & Algae Blooms

Days: (800) 285-8195  
 Nights/Weekends: (888) 584-3110  
 Toll-free (866) 633-4686

#### Hazardous Material & Oil Spills (more than 5 gallons)

Days/Nights/Weekends: Toll-free (866) 633-4686

#### Public Sewer Leaks & Overflows

24 hours: (301) 206-4002

#### Underground Tank Leaks

Days: (410) 537-3442  
 Nights/Weekends: Toll-free (866) 633-4686

### Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources

Environmental Services Division  
 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 610  
 Largo, Maryland 20774

**PHONE:** (301) 883-5834  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov)  
[DERcares@co.pg.md.us](mailto:DERcares@co.pg.md.us)

**Water Pollution Line:** (301) 95-CLEAN

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Samuel E. Wynkoop, Jr.  
Director

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

# Report Water Pollution

## Emergency Situations

Dial **911** to report hazardous waste spills or spills of raw sewage, gasoline, chemicals, or radioactive discharge.

## Non-Emergency Situations

To report water pollution concerns, muddy water, foam, paint, oily sheens, and algae blooms, dial **(301) 95-CLEAN** or e-mail [DERcares@co.pg.md.us](mailto:DERcares@co.pg.md.us).



**RUSHERN L. BAKER, III**  
County Executive



# Be Part of the Solution

## Concerned Citizens Can Make a Difference by Reporting Problems

You are our best resource in protecting our local streams. We need citizens like you to contact us when you see a water pollution problem in your community. Your quick reporting of water pollution incidents could lead to rapid clean up of oil spills, provide evidence for enforcing pollution laws and possibly protect others from harm in your community.

### Be Prepared

When reporting a water pollution incident, have paper and pencil ready, or record your information on a tape recorder or camcorder. A good set of notes will provide a complete and accurate set of facts for others to review. Here is a basic checklist:

- Time and date of your observation;
- Exact location of the problem (street names, landmarks, waterways, etc.);
- Description of the problem or suspicious activity (unusual odor, color, thickness, area covered, dead fish or birds, etc.); and
- Your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

### Stop It at the Source

Water pollution is often the result of everyday behaviors that contaminate the nearby stream. People may not even be aware that their actions contribute to pollution. When common household chemicals are spilled, dripped or improperly used, they often remain on roadways, parking lots or driveways where rainwater washes them directly into our local creeks and nearby rivers. This source of pollution is referred to as non-point or stormwater pollution.

Water pollution is also caused when a business connects a waste pipe or dumps waste directly into the storm drain system. Generally referred to as an

illicit discharge, these connections are difficult to locate, since both the illegal connection and the storm drain system may be hidden underground or the dumping may occur in remote areas. An example of an illicit discharge would be the connection of a floor drain in a restaurant or automotive repair garage to the storm drain system.

### Are All Drains the Same?

Understanding the difference between sanitary sewer drains and storm drains is key to understanding the water pollution problem. Indoor waste drains are connected to a network of sewer lines that flow into a wastewater treatment plant where the waste is treated to remove pollutants before it is discharged to a river.

On the other hand, outdoor drainage typically flows directly into the storm drain that leads to the nearest creek or waterway with no treatment of any kind. When rain comes into contact with a pollutant source, it becomes a potential source of urban runoff pollution. Once you understand that concept, you begin to understand the magnitude of the problem.

### We Need Your Help

Everyone's help is needed to keep the storm drain system free from harmful products and to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our environment.

If you are concerned about the condition of a local stream or the possible illegal dumping into a storm drain, please contact the Department of Environmental Resources at (301) 883-5834, the Water Pollution Line at (301) 95-CLEAN or e-mail us at DERcares@co.pg.md.us.

### Let Us Help You

The Department has an Investigation, Inspection & Enforcement (IIE) Program that monitors, detects, and controls illicit discharges and improper disposal of pollutants into the County's storm drains and waterways. We respond immediately to your calls and e-mails or to incidents discovered in the course of our routine fieldwork. Any party found responsible for an illicit discharge is subject to a citation and is responsible for the termination and clean up of the discharge.

Prince George's County is committed to preserving clean and safe communities, but we cannot do it alone. We encourage citizens to report potential problems in their neighborhoods.

Common Citizen Complaints					
Water Color	Possible Discharge		Possible Cause(s)		
Bright Green	Antifreeze		Automotive Repair		
Green	Fertilizer		Lawn Care, Agriculture		
Yellow	Pollen		Flowering Trees and Shrubs (naturally occurring)		
Red-Orange	Iron		Petroleum Products, Leaking Underground Fuel Tank (can be naturally occurring bacteria where there is iron in the groundwater)		
White, Milky, or Cloudy	Detergent, Road Salt		Cement Cutting or Washing Activities, Snow Removal		
White, Sudsy	Detergent		Car Washing, Laundry Facilities		
Gray, Black	Sewage		Sewer Main or Manhole Leaks or Overflows		
Yellow-Brown	Fuel		Leaking Fuel Tanks		
Rainbow, Sheen	Oil		Petroleum Products		
Common Illicit Discharges					
Motor Oil	Fuel	Construction Debris	Medical Waste	Cleaning Products	Industrial Wastes
Sewage	Paint Waste	Wall Compound	Concrete Cutting Slurry	Pressure Washing Water	Swimming Pool Water
Engine Coolant	Concrete Washout	Yard Waste	Detergents	Food Waste	Trash and Garbage