

**You make  
the difference.**



Help protect our water for the next generation.

- 💧 **Properly dispose of household hazardous waste.**  
Never dump items such as motor oil, fuels, paints, cleansers and pesticides on the ground or down the drain. They contaminate ground- and surface water. Call the Calhoun County Environmental Health Dept. at 269-969-6341 for Household Hazardous Waste Collection sites and dates.
- 💧 **Keep septic system working properly.**  
Have septic system checked every 2-3 years.
- 💧 **Check fuel storage tanks regularly for leaks.**  
Leaking above- and underground storage tanks are a major source of contamination. Check them!
- 💧 **Properly close abandoned wells.**  
Close any abandoned wells on your property. They can carry contaminants directly to groundwater.
- 💧 **Wash cars away from storm drains.**  
When washing cars, direct wash water away from streets and storm drains. Wash cars on the lawn so that water can be absorbed and filtered.
- 💧 **Dispose of pet waste.**  
Pet waste can be high in bacteria and nutrients, and should be disposed of in a toilet or trash can.
- 💧 **Compost grass clippings and leaves.**  
Never allow them to wash into roadways.
- 💧 **Don't guess, soil test.**  
Have your lawn soil analyzed for nutrient information. Over-application of fertilizers and pesticides can cause these products to make their way into both surface waters and groundwater.
- 💧 **Landscape naturally.**  
Landscape with plants native to Michigan. They are well suited to our climate, pest resistant, and can reduce the need for irrigation and fertilizers.
- 💧 **Properly dispose of swimming pool waste water.**  
Pool water can be hazardous to local streams and lakes. Call your local Public Works Dept. for advice.

Call our 24-Hour Hotline if you witness illicit discharging, because pollution just isn't cool.



Brought to you by the partnership of:

Greater Battle Creek Area  
Watershed Management Committee

Calhoun County  
Community Development

Calhoun County  
Drain Commissioner

City of Battle Creek

City of Springfield

Bedford Township

Emmett Township

Leroy Township

Newton Township

Pennfield Township

For additional information,  
visit our water quality website at:

**[www.bcwater.org](http://www.bcwater.org)**

For other ways that you can help conserve water, visit:

**[www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html)**

Financial Assistance provided by  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Clean Michigan Initiative

# 24-Hour Water Pollution HOTLINE

Because pollution just isn't cool.

**800.781.5512**

## Illicit Discharge Elimination Program



## Illicit discharge means pollution.

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm water drainage system that is not just rainwater. Some examples of illicit discharges include dumping of motor vehicle fluids, household hazardous wastes, direct connections between household plumbing and storm drains, failing septic fields, unauthorized discharges of sewage, industrial waste, restaurant waste, or anything else that is not rainwater. Grass clippings, leaf litter, animal waste and pool waste water are also sources of pollution.

When these illicit discharges reach rivers and lakes they may impact the environment, as well as swimming, fishing and other recreational activities. Identification and elimination of illicit discharges is necessary to protect our water resources and prevent water-borne illnesses.

When you make a call to report illicit discharges, you are protecting our rivers and lakes, as well as the fish and wildlife that live in and around them.



Storm sewers drain virtually everything from our lawns and streets directly into our local surface and groundwater. Because this water is not cleaned, we need to take extra care in what we allow to wash down these drains.



## What we can do.

Illicit discharges to waterbodies, such as the Battle Creek River, the Kalamazoo River, and area lakes and wetlands contribute to the degradation of the environment. The Greater Battle Creek Area Watershed Management Committee is committed to protecting these valuable resources. However, we need your help to identify illicit discharges.

# 24-Hour Water Pollution HOTLINE

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## What you can do.

### Please call our hotline if you observe:

- 💧 A strong sewage odor
- 💧 Discharges—someone dumping suspicious substances into drains or into a waterbody
- 💧 Sewage on the ground surface

### Be prepared to give the following information:

- 💧 Location of complaint
- 💧 Source of pollution, if known
- 💧 Responsible party, if known
- 💧 Any other relevant observations

### You may remain anonymous if you desire.



Pollution that starts in the street eventually trickles down and damages the environment, destroying our natural resources.