

Re: *Environmental Notice- Illegal Discharges to Storm Drains and Surface Waters*
Mecklenburg, NC

Management:

This notice is in regard to the practice of allowing pollutants to be discharged into the storm sewer system or surface waters. The discharge of sewage, wash water, detergents, oil, automotive fluids, cooking grease, or other pollutants to the storm sewer, streams, lakes, or other surface waters violates N.C. General Statute 143-215.1(a). This is a State law and is enforced by this department throughout Mecklenburg County. Maximum penalty under this law is \$25,000 dollars per day, per violation.

These discharges are against the local ordinances of the municipalities located within Mecklenburg County as well as Mecklenburg County's own surface water pollution control ordinance. First time offense can carry a maximum penalty of between \$1,000-\$10,000 per day, per violation, depending on the location of the violation.

Penalties may be assessed against offending individuals, offending businesses, the property owners, or all parties.

Commercial wastewaters must be discharged to the sanitary sewer with proper pretreatment if necessary. **This includes the washing out of trashcans, mop buckets, grease pans, or other equipment. Mop sinks must be used for such activities.**

Areas where trash or pollutants accumulate must be kept clear and clean by removing offending materials. **This includes grease bin areas, trash dumpster areas, and the parking lots around the business. Debris in these areas should be removed, not washed away to the drains. Litter, grease, and debris may not be allowed to enter into the storm drains, or the surface waters.**

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact this department at (704) 336-5500, if you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter.