

# Stormwater Regulation

## What is Stormwater?

- Stormwater is any water from rain or snow that does not infiltrate into the ground after a storm, and instead runs along the surface of the ground. This water is pulled downhill by gravity which causes it to run over different terrains until it eventually reaches a body of water like a river, lake, or stream. Through this journey, stormwater picks up many pollutants along the way like sediment, lawn chemicals, pet waste, and more
  - For more information on stormwater click [here!](#)

## What is an MS4 permit?

- The Licking County Commissioners hold a small [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\)](#) permit under the [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\)](#) which sets limits on what can be discharged, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other provisions to ensure that the discharge does not affect water quality or people's health
  - For more information on MS4 and NPDES click [here!](#)

## Why do we have an MS4 permit and protections in place?

- Stormwater accounts for an estimated 70-90% of water pollution. Water pollution includes the freshwater sources that we use as our drinking water, like rivers and aquifers. By reducing stormwater pollution you reduce drinking water pollution. Not only does polluted water affect us, but it also harms the ecosystems around us. Plants and animals rely on clean water for drinking and their habitats.

## How to Report Illicit Discharge

- An illicit discharge is any discharge that is not entirely composed of stormwater to a municipal separate storm sewer (MS4), which includes roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains that are owned or operated by any public body. When something other than clean water flowing out of a pipe or into a waterway is discovered, it is a polluted discharge.
- If an illicit discharge is discovered, report the pollution by completing an [ILLICIT DISCHARGE REPORT FORM](#) and return it to Licking County Soil & Water as soon as possible. Soil & Water coordinates illicit discharge investigations,

performs water quality testing on-site, determines discharge source, and works with landowners to eliminate the discharge.

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