

## **ILLICIT DISCHARGE**

Illicit discharge occurs when water *which does not consist entirely of stormwater or uncontaminated ground water* is discharged to the waters of the State of Connecticut.

**Why is this important?** Illicit discharges contribute to pollution of surface waters in the form of metals, toxic chemicals, oil, grease, solvents, and excess nutrients and pathogens.

**Where do illicit discharges come from?** There are many forms of illicit discharges – some obvious, some not, and some intentional, some not. Examples include: illegal connection to the storm drain system, failing septic systems, illegal dumping of yard waste or pet waste, vehicle wash water run-off, as well as improper disposal of household cleaners, used motor oil, pesticides and fertilizers. All these have the potential to enter the municipal storm drain system, which then eventually discharges to Long Island Sound.

**What role does the Town of Westbrook play with regard to illicit discharges?** The Town of Westbrook is responsible under the CT DEEP MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit to eliminate illicit discharges. Look for the Town's Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) written program (currently under development) on this page in the near future.

**You can help!** By being aware of the potential hazards, you can make informed decisions. Small changes can have a large impact. Please refer to the brochures on this page for more information.

**To report an illicit discharge:** If you suspect or have knowledge of an illicit discharge, please report it by contacting Colleen Topitzer, Administrative Assistant, Department of Public Works at [ctopitzer@westbrookct.us](mailto:ctopitzer@westbrookct.us) or 860-552-4496. You must report the date and time, as well as the location. Identifying the type of discharge is helpful, but not entirely necessary. Once received, the information will be forwarded to the appropriate Town personnel for investigation.