



ILLICIT DISCHARGE

It is illegal to put anything but rain water down storm drains or into water bodies, with the exception of discharges allowed under a NPDES permit or waters used for firefighting operations. Illicit discharges can result from illegal connections to the storm drain system from business or commercial establishments. Illicit connections may be intentional or may be unknown to the business owner and often are due to the connection of floor drains to the storm sewer system. Additional sources of illicit discharges can be failing septic systems, illegal dumping practices, and the improper disposal of sewage from recreational practices such as boating or camping.

Report illegal dumping at the local Department of Environmental Protection (305) 289-7070.



DO NOT DISPOSE OF...

- ☹ Trash such as plastic, Styrofoam, aluminum cans, bottles, bags, 6-pack rings, fishing line, etc., which are all LONG lasting and can injure or kill wildlife.
- ☹ Yard wastes, dirt, rocks, oil, grease, trash or chemicals which can all clog the storm drains and prevent trench drains from functioning. This may reduce the effectiveness of the storm drains and result in localized flooding.
- ☹ Fertilizers and lawn clippings which provide a food source (nitrogen and phosphorous) for algae and bacteria. This can further degrade our near shore waters and at times result in fish kills.

Help keep our water healthy and clean!



City of Marathon
Utilities Department
9805 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050

For more information contact:

City of Marathon Utilities Department
(305) 289-5005
ci.marathon.fl.us/government/utilities



Prevent Stormwater Pollution

STORMWATER RUNOFF

Land construction changes the natural condition of the land. Improvements such as roads, homes, etc. create many impervious or impenetrable surfaces.

Some rainwater flows over the impervious surfaces into property owned by others, or flows directly into our canals and near shore waters. This "stormwater runoff" may carry anything that has been applied to the ground such as fertilizers or pesticides. As more land is developed, the volume, speed of flow, and pollutant loading of runoff increases. To minimize standing water on and adjacent to the roads and to reduce pollution of our near shore water bodies, the City is required by Federal/State mandate to implement stormwater management practices to retain, detain, and/or filter the run off.

STORM DRAINS

Storm drains vary in type, size and function. The drainage placed in the residential neighborhoods in the City of Marathon were designed to provide water quality treatment to meet state water quality standards. The stormwater system was constructed of corrugated high density polyethylene pipes in trench drains and injection wells.

This system will collect and treat stormwater from average rain falls on public rights-of-way. This system will not alleviate all the standing water when there is a heavy rainfall combined with high tides.



SWALES

Swales are one of the most commonly used stormwater practices and have been used for many years along rural highways and residential roads to convey run off.

Swales are typically wider than they are deep which slows the water and allows the runoff to temporarily pond.

Reducing the water's speed allows the vegetation to filter the rain water and remove sediments, heavy metals and hydrocarbons such as oil and grease. Ponding of runoff in a swale allows water to soak into the soil, helping to reduce the volume and amount of pollutants that reach our canals and nearshore waters.

WHAT THE CITY IS DOING

The City of Marathon has finished construction of its stormwater system infrastructure.

The Utility department has started a routine maintenance program cleaning each drainage structure at least one time per year using its vactor truck.

The City also finished construction of its wastewater infrastructure. This is a separate system with different goals. All of these improvements will minimize pollution runoff from entering the near shore waters. This is an integral part of the City's efforts to protect and improve water quality for boating, fishing, snorkeling and diving. These activities are an important part of our local economy and our daily lives.

The City additionally regulates zoning and construction practices to minimize runoff to our coastal waters.



You can make a difference by working with us to improve water quality.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Properly dispose of waste at your home.
- Keep the swale in front of your home free of debris.
- Don't park on the swales when there is an alternative.
- Don't fill or change the swale as it may not function as designed. Water may temporarily stand in the swale or be conveyed to a storm drain for treatment.
- Help to pick up garbage in your neighborhood or on the beaches.