ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Illicit Discharge & Detection & Elimination (IDDE) in the Town of Bluffton

WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

ANY substance other than stormwater that enters the Town's stormwater conveyance system — the network of ditches, drains, ponds, rivers, and streams that move stormwater and runoff directly to our local waterways without treatment.

Enforcement

Anyone found committing an illicit discharge will be committing a violation subject to a civil penalty of **$500 per violation**, and if this action continues, may lead to further enforceable actions being taken such as the revocation of Town business licenses.

Environmentally friendly, biodegradable, and green products are still considered illicit discharges.



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

To report illicit discharges or illegal dumping, call **843-706-4500**
or visit SeeClickFix - Bluffton

Watershed Management Division

Proper Pollution Prevention



Fertilizers & Pesticides

↓

Use only the recommended amount, never before a large storm, and never near waterways.



Concrete Stations

↓

Establish a “pour station” that contains the cement mixture.



Fats, Oils & Grease

↓

Dispose in grease trap, or let cool and solidify in a disposable container before disposing in garbage.



Paint Storage

↓

Store with lid or in covered area. Wipe brushes, air dry paint or use paper towels.



Gas & Motor Oil:

↓

Empty and wipe drip pans when they are half-full.

Proper Spill Prevention

- Keep spill kits on site and in vehicles to quickly manage leaks or spills.
- Never hose a spill down the storm drain.
- Use absorbents, like kitty litter, on wet spills.
- Sweep all granular materials.
- Properly dispose of all materials in your garbage can.
- Use secondary containment for hazardous substances.
- Ensure materials and trash cans remain covered.



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Stormwater Program

The Town of Bluffton is designated as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), a water quality program mandated by the state and federal governments under the clean water act.

This program requires the development, implementation, and enforcement of a construction site inspection program for sediment, erosion, and stormwater controls.

As part of the construction site inspection program, sediment and erosion control inspections are conducted at sites located within the Town's jurisdiction on a monthly basis, at a minimum.

Construction site erosion has been identified as a potential source of water pollution. By employing Best Management Practices (BMPs), you can significantly reduce the amount of sediment released into Bluffton's waterways.

Do your part to help keep our local waterways clean!

Resources

- **Town of Bluffton's Web Site**
  http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov
- **Town of Bluffton's Stormwater Design Manual Web Site**
  https://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/pdfs/stormwater-manual.pdf
- **Town of Bluffton's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Web Site**
  https://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/Documents/izone.pdf
- **SC DHEC Stormwater Web Site**
  http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Water/Stormwater/
- **SC DHEC BMP Handbook Web Site**
  http://www.scdhec.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/Stormwater/BMPHandbook/
- **Lowcountry Stormwater Partners Web Site**
  https://www.clemson.edu/extension/carolinaclear/regional-consortiums/lsp/index.html

Town of BLUFFTON South Carolina

SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL PRACTICES

for the Single-Family Residential Builder



Courtesy: Town of Bluffton Watershed Management Division

Construction Checklist

THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST WILL ASSIST YOU IN ENSURING THAT APPROPRIATE FACTORS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS:

PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION

- Install Perimeter Controls: Identify the areas where sediment runoff could leave the construction site and install perimeter controls to minimize the potential for off-site sedimentation. This could include controls such as silt fence, construction entrances, storm drain inlet protection devices, or other Best Management Practice (BMP) control measures to minimize sediment runoff.

DURING CONSTRUCTION

- Maintain Erosion & Sediment Controls: Inspect the site at least once a week and after storm events to ensure proper functioning of all BMPs. Maintain controls until construction activities are complete and any disturbed areas are stabilized. Clean any curbing/roadways of sediment and debris.
- Concrete Washout: Utilize concrete washouts while pouring house foundations, driveways, and sidewalks.
- Dewatering: Dewatering practices may be necessary on your site. Due to the individual nature of each dewatering practice, the Town's Watershed Management Division shall be notified at least 24 hours prior to any dewatering activity as an inspection of the site may be required.

POST CONSTRUCTION

- Revegetate and Stabilize Site: Immediately
- Remove all Erosion and Sediment Control Measures.

Your Site is Your Product

PROPER INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BMPS ON YOUR WORK SITE IS A REFLECTION OF YOUR BUSINESS.



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STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS) FOR CONTRACTORS & SUBCONTRACTORS

Town of BLUFFTON South Carolina

SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL: WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

When land is disturbed at construction sites, the erosion rate accelerates dramatically. Sediment leaving these sites has negative impacts on the water quality of our local waterbodies.

Depending on your line of work as a contractor/subcontractor, you may be responsible for the installation, maintenance, or utilization of sediment and erosion control devices and proper illicit discharge prevention techniques. Together, these devices and techniques are considered Best Management Practices (BMPs). What follows is info on commonly used BMPs.

CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE

Every construction site should have a construction entrance a minimum of 15'L x 10'W complete with underlying fabric and a minimum of 6" of stone to prevent sediment from being carried off-site by vehicles.

The stone must be washed or replaced whenever the entrance fails to reduce the amount of sediment tracked off-site and roadways should be swept regularly.



SILT FENCE

Silt fence must be properly trenched in 6" in depth and back filled along the boundary of the site prior to land disturbance and must remain in place until the site has achieved final stabilization.

Establish a routine of checking silt fence on your site weekly, especially immediately following a rain event. Remove accumulated sediment exceeding 1/3 the height of the silt fence and repair any fallen or damaged sections.



INLET PROTECTION

Inlet protection must be installed at every inlet located within the site and downstream of the site to prevent sediment from entering the stormwater system.

Replace inlet protection that has deteriorated or becomes full of sediment and keep inlet protection in place until the site work is completed and final stabilization is achieved.



TEMPORARY & PERMANENT STABILIZATION

The purpose of stabilization is to control runoff and reduce erosion and sedimentation by providing coverage to areas that would otherwise lay bare for long periods of time. Temporary or permanent stabilization is required within 14 days after construction activity is complete and final stabilization of the site requires a 70% overall coverage rate.



CONCRETE WASHOUT STATION

Concrete washout water (washwater) is a slurry containing toxic metals harmful to aquatic life. Concrete washout stations should be utilized to prevent washwater from entering the stormwater system.

Concrete washout stations must be emptied or replaced once 50% holding capacity of the station has been exceeded.









TIPS FOR ILLICIT DISCHARGE PREVENTION

- Properly utilize and maintain BMPs.
- Notify the Watershed Management Division at least 24 hours prior to dewatering to ensure a proper setup.
- Temporary stockpiles and construction materials must be properly contained and stored.
- Ensure proper placement of portable toilets. Do not place portable toilets directly upstream of a stormwater conveyance structure.
- Pay attention to the amount of paint, tile, etc. washout accumulating on-site, ensuring that washout does not leave the site or enter the stormwater system.
- If a spill does occur, do not use water to hose down the area. Either use a spill kit or clean material to help absorb the spill. Clean up any spills immediately and dispose of materials in accordance with applicable state and local laws.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Town of Bluffton's Web Site: http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov
- Town of Bluffton's Stormwater Design Manual Web Site: https://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3692/SWDM-March-11-2025?bidId=
- Town of Bluffton's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Web Site: https://online.encodeplus.com/regs/bluffton-sc/index.aspx
- SC DES BMP Handbook Web Site: https://des.sc.gov/sites/des/files/docs/Environment/docs/OCRM_DHEC_FIELD_MANUAL.pdf
- Lowcountry Stormwater Partners Web Site: https://www.clemson.edu/extension/carolinaclear/regional-consortiums/lsp/index.html

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Bluffton, SC 29910
(843)706-4581

LOWCOUNTRY STORMWATER PARTNERS
A Service of Clemson Extension