

## Be a Part of the Solution!

Here are a few simple measures that you can take to reduce polluted stormwater runoff:

### Trash and Litter

- Dispose of trash properly, and pick up litter if you see it on the ground.

### Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain so chemicals are not washed into your local streams and storm drains.
- Install rain gardens and rain barrels.
- Sweep up yard debris. Do not hose them down drains. Try composting.

### Vehicles and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on grass or an unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into storm drains and eventually into your local water body.
- Check your car, boat, and motorcycle for leaks. Clean up spills quickly with absorbent material like kitty litter or sand. DO NOT rinse spills into storm drains.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste at one of the City's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Centers

### Pet Care

- Dispose of pet waste properly. Leaving waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria to wash into the storm drain and local water bodies.

## Help Protect our Streams and Harbor by Reporting Problems

You can report a problem by contacting the City's 3-1-1 Request System!

Call 3-1-1

Go Online ([www.baltimorecity.gov/311-services](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/311-services))

Download the Smartphone App

### You can report:

Waterway Pollution Investigation

Sewer Water Overflow

Sediment or Erosion Problem

What to tell agency personnel:

**Time, Location,  
Description of Problem**

Other Important numbers

MDE Spill Response  
410-537-3975

**Want more information on Water Quality Monitoring and IDDE?**

Visit

**cleanwaterbaltimore**  
[www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org](http://www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org)

City of Baltimore  
Office of Compliance and  
Laboratories

## Water Quality Monitoring and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)



Working to Protect our  
Streams and Harbor

Monitoring  
Investigations

Education

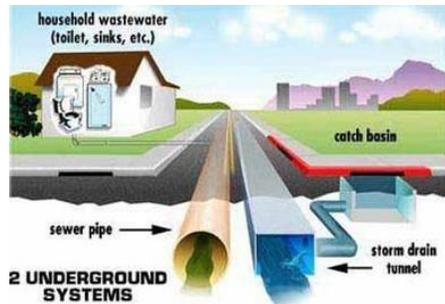


Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
Mayor



## Baltimore's Infrastructure

Baltimore has a **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)**, from which it discharges untreated stormwater runoff into local water bodies. MS4s are separate from sanitary sewer systems which carry household waste to treatment plants.



## Regulation Facts

Baltimore is issued a stormwater discharge permit every 5 years by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), known as the MS4 Permit. The conditions of the permit require Baltimore to monitor and meet certain water quality standards and implement Best Management Practices to improve the water quality throughout the city streams. The authority comes from the **Clean Water Act**, which is a 1972 federal law that protects our nation's waters, including lakes, rivers, and coastal areas. Under this act the **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** permit program was established to control water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge into waters. One of the requirements of the MS4 permit is to have an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program.

## Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff is generated when precipitation (rain and snowmelt) flows over land or impervious surfaces (paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops) and does not soak into the ground. This runoff accumulates debris, chemicals, sediment or other pollutants that could adversely affect water quality if the runoff is discharged untreated.



## What the Water Quality Monitoring and IDDE Section does

- Routinely monitors water quality at numerous stormwater outfalls and stream locations.



- Investigates pollution problems (sewage, oil, chlorine, paint, sediment) entering streams and the Harbor.



- Works closely with local organizations and watershed groups to investigate upstream complaints.
- Works closely with other city and state agencies to abate pollution sources.
- Monitors aquatic insect populations.
- Educates the public and area schools about environmental issues.