

HOW TO IDENTIFY ILLEGAL DISCHARGES AND DUMPING:

What to look for —

Discolored Water



Oil Sheen on Shoreline



Soap Suds or Foam



Toilet Debris or Gray Water



Excessive Trash



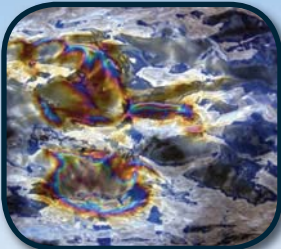
Tires



Drums



Oil Sheen on Water



Identifying Odors —

- ◆ Solvent or gas ◆ Rotten egg
- ◆ Sewage ◆ Chlorine ◆ Detergent

What you drop means a lot: Prevent pollution from entering the Canal

VESSEL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

Remember:

- ◆ Do not top off gas tanks during fueling, and always keep absorbent pads/booms nearby to collect spills.
- ◆ Discharge all sanitary waste at onshore pump-out facilities.
- ◆ Do not discharge bilge water that is oily or has a sheen, instead pump oily water into drums. Do not use detergents to clean bilge.
- ◆ Clean boat bottoms ashore over hard surfaces or on a tarp, where paint chips and other debris can be contained and disposed of properly.
- ◆ Use non-toxic, phosphate-free biodegradable cleaners on your vessel.
- ◆ Always dispose of your trash properly.



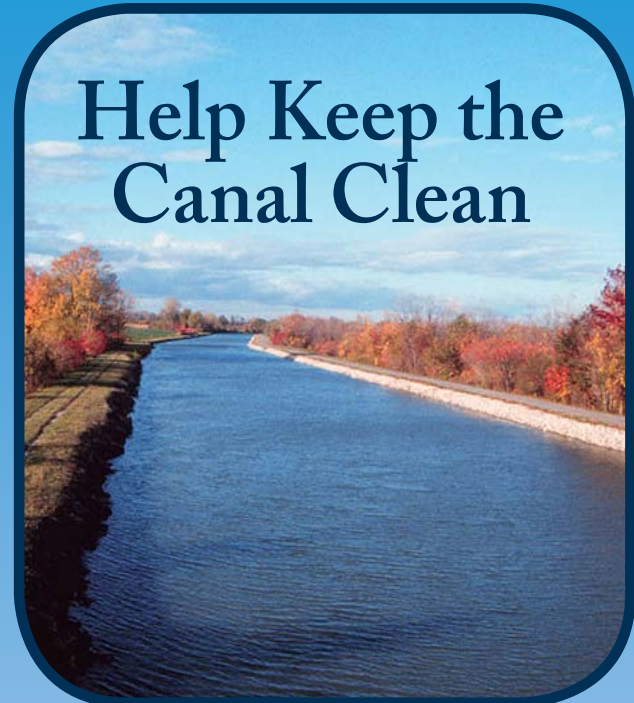
For additional information about the Canal Corporation's Stormwater Management Program, contact:

Environmental Services Bureau
200 Southern Boulevard
P.O. Box 189
Albany, NY 12201-0189



Phone: (518) 436-3190
www.thruway.ny.gov/oursystem/environmental/waterquality.html

Help Keep the Canal Clean



What you can do to help



CONNECTING
THE DROPS

NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY &
CANAL CORPORATION: WORKING WITH
YOU TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER

Through its *Connecting the Drops* campaign, the New York State Canal Corporation, in conjunction with the New York State Thruway Authority, is working to keep the canals and waterways clean. You can help by preventing stormwater pollution. Together we can make a difference.



POLLUTANTS AND THEIR IMPACTS

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	IMPACTS
Trash and litter	Littering and illegal dumping	Litter can reach lakes and streams and choke or suffocate ducks, fish, turtles or birds.
Bacteria and disease-causing organisms	Sewage, leaking septic systems	Bacteria and germs can reach swimming areas, causing beach closures and creating health hazards.
Chemicals and oil	Illegal dumping or runoff of pesticides, paints, solvents or motor oil	Chemicals and oil can poison aquatic life. Animals and people can be at risk from eating contaminated fish or drinking polluted water.
Nutrients	Runoff of fertilizers or detergents	Nutrients cause algae to grow, which absorbs the oxygen that aquatic life need to live.

Q. What is an illegal discharge?

A. Any discharge to the Canal or one of its tributary streams that is not entirely stormwater runoff.

Q. Why should you care?

A. Pollutants from illegal discharges can harm people, plants, fish and animals.

Sources of Illegal Discharges:

- ◆ Wastewater from industry, commercial buildings, or homes
- ◆ Oil or chemicals dumped in a storm drain
- ◆ Cross-connections with sewer system
- ◆ Untreated wastewater
- ◆ Car wash wastewater
- ◆ Mobile power washer wastewater
- ◆ Improper plumbing hooked into storm drains
- ◆ Chemical or oil spills that enter storm drains
- ◆ Dumping drums containing oil or other chemicals



The Canal Corporation's historic Tug Urger on the Erie Canal



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