Thank you to Janie Armstrong, Code Enforcement, for reporting a landscaping company blowing leaves into the storm drain system.

It is considered a code violation when leaves and yard waste are purposely blown, raked, or dumped into the storm drain system. Yard waste must be composted or disposed of through authorized waste management services.

Chemical Storage Usage and Disposal

Household and industrial chemicals (oils, cleaners, fertilizer, pesticides, fuel, etc.) can impact water quality if not properly stored, used, disposed of, and cleaned up.

Things to look for:

- Discharge of chemicals to the storm drain
- Leaking barrels of chemicals
- Leaking dumpster
Sometimes what may seem like an illegal discharge is not one, such as dye testing of stormdrains. Dye is used to track where water flows through a system or to check for leaks. If in doubt about whether a discharge is illegal, report it and it will be investigated.

What you can do!

- Report any leaking materials or questionable substances.
- Use and dispose of chemicals according to the directions.
- Store chemicals where they are not exposed to wind or rain.
- Clean any residue from the outside of containers.
- Clean up any spills and dispose of the material properly. See the link below for Pinellas County Solid Waste disposal information.
• Use the minimum amount of chemical needed to do the job.
• Use non-chemical alternatives or use more environmentally friendly, non-toxic, and biodegradable chemicals.
• Repair leaking vehicles or equipment and keep a drip pan under the vehicle until they are repaired.

**Chemical Clean Up**

**IMMEDIATELY:**
• **DO NOT:** pressure wash or hose off. This will cause contaminants to runoff into the street and potentially into a storm drain or a water body.
• **DO:** Place drip pan under vehicle, leak, or equipment to catch fluids.
• **DO:** Repair fluid leak or transfer to a good container as soon as possible.

**CLEAN UP:**
• Wear protective gloves.
• Absorb as much free product as possible with paper towels, kitty litter, sand or other absorbent material before cleaning. Absorbent granules or pads may be obtained from auto part stores.
• If it is oil and you need to use a cleaner to clean off residue use a biodegradable degreaser, e.g. Simple Green or dish washing soap to scrub the area with a brush and a little water. DO NOT RINSE OFF.
• Be careful not to mix certain chemicals such as bleach and ammonia which releases chlorine gas. If you don’t know if it is ok to use call the company. The number is usually on the bottle.
• Keep everything contained to the affected area.
• After the area has been scrubbed, absorb the cleaner and spilled material with paper towels, kitty litter or other absorbent material.
• Clean up and dispose of all materials. Double bag it and place it in the trash.

**Contact Information for possible illicit discharges:**

Ryan Ryczek (727) 464-4425, rryczek@pinellascounty.org
Stormwater Watchline (727) 464-5060
Complaints received from incorporated (city) jurisdictions will be forwarded.

For more information on stormwater and Pinellas County water quality visit the water atlas www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/stormwaterEd/

For waste disposal information contact Pinellas County Solid Waste- (727) 464-7500.
www.pinellascounty.org/Utilities/departments/solid-waste.htm

Illicit Discharge Training Video:
http://vstreamint.co.pinellas.fl.us:8080/ramgen/illegaldischarges.rm