

Residential Conservation

Consider these easy ways

YOU can help to protect our local waters:

✓ **Dispose of Waste Properly**

Improper disposal of oil-based paints, mineral spirits, pool chemicals, pesticides, or other home chemicals can pollute our sensitive Sanibel environment. Did you know that used automobile batteries and fluids can be returned to an auto parts shop?

Other household waste items can be dropped off at the

LEE COUNTY HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE FACILITY

6441 Topaz Court Fort Myers, FL 33966
(239) 533-8000

For more information about hazardous waste disposal please call the City of Sanibel Public Works Department (239) 472-6397 or visit

<http://www.mysanibel.com> and click on Public Works Department.

✓ **Protect Your Storm Drain**

Water in storm drains does not go to the water treatment plant! Pollutants entering storm drains end up in our canals and coastal waters. Maintain a “fertilizer-free” zone around all storm drains and be sure that pet waste and yard clippings near storm drains are picked up and disposed of properly.

For additional information visit NPDES <http://www.leegov.com>

Stormwater pollution

Stormwater runoff is one of the greatest threats to water quality in Florida.



Stormwater runoff is rain that does not soak into the ground where it falls. This water runs off yards, streets, and parking lots into storm sewers or waterways and carries a variety of pollutants including:

- Illicit discharge
- Fertilizers
- Yard waste
- Paint
- Gasoline/Motor oil
- Pesticides/Weed Killers
- Pet Wastes
- Detergents and Soaps
- Other pollution/hazardous wastes

To Report an Illicit Discharge

Call the
City of Sanibel Police Department
(239) 472-3111

Every action we take in our homes and yards affects our water and wildlife resources. Storm drains along Sanibel’s neighborhood streets. Drain into roadway swales, canals, and wetlands and end up in our estuaries, bay and Gulf waters. This is the same water we drink and enjoy recreationally. As individuals, and collectively, we CAN protect Sanibel’s fragile estuaries and wildlife, and continue to enjoy our sanctuary island!

If you have any questions about a possible illicit discharge, please call the City of Sanibel Public Works Department (239) 472-6397 or visit <http://www.mysanibel.com> and click on Public Works Department.

Identifying and Reporting

Illicit Discharge



A Homeowners Guide to:

- Recognizing Illicit Discharges
- Sanitary Sewage Pollution
- Stormwater Pollution
- Residential Conservation
- Reporting Illicit Discharges



What is Illicit Discharge?

An Illicit Discharge is ANY disposal, emptying, or dumping of any substance other than rainfall into the stormwater drainage system. Pollutants entering Sanibel's storm water system do not flow to the water treatment plant, they empty into our local canals, wetlands, fragile estuaries, bays and Gulf waters! Chemicals and nutrients become stormwater pollution as they are soaked up by the passing water. The stormwater is harmful and can lead to algae blooms, resulting in hypoxia and other impacts to fish and wildlife.

Water quality is important to improve and sustain the wonderful waters of Sanibel for future generations to enjoy. Keeping this ecosystem and fishery healthy is critical to protecting the quality of life of the Island's residents and wildlife, as well as our local economy



Photo Credits: EPA Website

Sanitary Sewer System

The Sanitary Sewer System takes our waste away from our homes to the sewage treatment plant. The waste is moved through a gravity system collection and lift stations. There are 126 lift stations throughout the island. When non-sewer objects such as diapers, clothing and other non-degradable objects are improperly disposed of in the sanitary sewer system lift stations can become backed up and cause a flood in your home and the surrounding environment. This type of clean up is very costly. Please properly dispose of wastes.

A clogged sewer system can over flow and can flood your house and the environment with sewer waste. Clean up can cost can be extremely expensive.



Disposing Cooking Waste

Cooking oil and grease are wastes that the sewer system cannot handle and should not be discarded down the sink. Dumping grease, fats, and oil can clog sewer lines, causing sewage back-ups and flooding. Sewage back-ups can damage personal property, public property, and also the surrounding environment.

DO NOT dump cooking oil, poultry fat and grease into the kitchen sink or the toilet bowl.

DO NOT use hot water and soap to wash grease down the sink, because it will cool and harden in your pipes or in the sewer down the line.

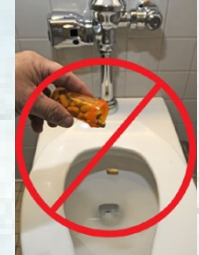


DO place cooled cooking oil, poultry and meat fats in sealed non-recyclable containers and discard with your regular garbage.

DO use paper towels to wipe residual grease or oil off of dishes, pots and pans prior to washing them.

Disposing Pharmaceuticals

Flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them into your trash can also be harmful to our environment. These pharmaceuticals can end up in our water system .



Islanders have two options for properly disposing of expired prescription, over-the-counter medications, needles and "sharps."

- Island Pharmacy accepts pharmaceuticals and "sharps" for proper disposal daily.
[Island Pharmacy, 2330 Palm Ridge Road #12, Sanibel, FL 33957 \(239\) 472-6188,](#)
- Lee County Sheriff's Office has a prescription drug drop-off box open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **Syringes cannot be disposed here.**
[14750 Ben C. Pratt Six-Mile Cypress Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33912
\(239\) 477-1000](#)

CLEAN WATER IS SANIBEL