



## **Stormwater Illicit Discharge Program Information Sheet**

The City of Medford has been assigned the “Regulatory” responsibilities for all stormwater pollution. This means that the City will be investigating complaints and concerns regarding possible illegal discharges into our city stormwater system.

The City has established is a program of information and education for individuals and businesses in Medford. In the near future, many businesses will be receiving letters and information regarding what is not allowed to be discharged into the system. These include radiator flushing, improper oil disposal, laundry wastewater, car wash wastewaters, auto and household toxics, pesticides, etc.

It is important to remember that what goes down the storm drain goes directly to Bear Creek, the Rogue River, and other waterways. Once in the waterways, these substances poison the natural plants and animals. Even “biodegradable” products cause problems in that they use the oxygen in the water, which is needed by wildlife and vegetation, to process the “degrading”.

One of the biggest pollution problems is the buildup of sediment (dirt) on the creek bottom. This buildup suffocates the natural vegetation. It also raises the creek bed, which then can lead to warmer water temperatures, which will affect the wildlife. How does sediment get there? Improperly maintained construction sites can be a big contributor, however every time a residential driveway is “washed clean” sediment, oils, grass clippings and other pollutants are sent on their way to the creek beds and ditches.

As the weather changes and more residents are doing yard improvements, washing their automobiles and getting the spring cleaning done, it is vital that attention is paid to what happens to the water that is being used. Does it go down the storm drain? Or does it collect on the grass or unimproved areas, which acts as a natural filter?

In the near future the City of Medford will have more information available on the City’s website regarding this important environment issue. Help us keep our waterways clean and safe.