

CREATING CHAPTER 50 OF THE DANE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
PROHIBITING DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS TO  
THE WATERS OF DANE COUNTY

The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Dane does ordain as follows:

ARTICLE 1. Unless otherwise expressly stated herein, all references to section and chapter numbers are to those of the Dane County Code of Ordinances.

ARTICLE 2. Chapter 50 is created to read as follows:

**DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS TO THE WATERS OF DANE COUNTY**

**50.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Chapter is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Dane County and protect surface waters and groundwaters of Dane County by preventing potentially polluting substances from reaching the municipal storm sewer system, lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater as required by federal and state law. This Chapter establishes methods for controlling the discharge of potentially polluting substances into the municipal storm sewer system in order to comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act, Chapter 283.33, Wis. Stats., and Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System municipal storm water discharge permit program under Chapter NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code.

**50.02 AUTHORITY.** This chapter is enacted pursuant to the authority of s. 33.455, Wis. Stats.

**50.03 ADMINISTRATION.** This ordinance shall be enforced by Public Health Madison and Dane County.

**50.04 APPLICABILITY.** This ordinance shall apply to all surface and ground waters of Dane County.

**50.05 DEFINITIONS.** As used in this chapter:

(1) *Discharge* means any actions or omissions that cause or allow for the spill, release, escape or other discharge, of any potentially polluting substance.

(2) *Illicit discharge* means any discharge of a potentially polluting substance directly or through stormwater that reaches a municipal storm sewer system, drainage way, wetland, waterbody or groundwater, except those authorized by a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit or other discharge not requiring a WPDES permit such as landscape irrigation, individual residential car washing, fire-fighting, diverted stream flows, uncontaminated groundwater infiltration, uncontaminated pumped groundwater, discharges from

47 potable water sources, foundation drains, air conditioning condensation, irrigation  
48 water, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, and similar discharges. These  
49 and other discharge exceptions do not apply if the discharge is identified by Public  
50 Health Madison and Dane County as a source of pollution to the waters of Dane  
51 County.

52 **(3)** *Municipal storm sewer system* means a conveyance or system of  
53 conveyances including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch  
54 basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, constructed channels or storm drains, which meets  
55 the following criteria:

- 56 a. Owned or operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish,  
57 district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State  
58 law) including special districts under state law such as a sewer district, flood  
59 control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an  
60 authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved  
61 management agency under section 208 of the Clean Water Act that  
62 discharges into waters of the United States.
- 63 b. Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater.
- 64 c. Which is not a combined sewer conveying both sanitary wastewater  
65 and stormwater.
- 66 d. Which is not part of a publicly owned wastewater treatment works  
67 that provides secondary or more stringent treatment.

68 **(4)** *Person* means an individual, owner, operator, corporation, partnership,  
69 association, limited liability company, municipality, interstate agency, state agency  
70 or federal agency.

71 **(5)** *Pollution* means human-made or human-induced alteration of the chemical,  
72 physical, biological or radiological integrity of water.

73 **(6)** *Potentially polluting substance* includes any substance which may cause  
74 pollution if discharged to waters of Dane County, including but not limited to, fuel  
75 oil, gasoline, solvents, industrial liquids or fluids, milk, grease trap and septic tank  
76 wastes, sanitary sewer wastes, storm sewer catch basin wastes, oil or petroleum  
77 waste, dredged soil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage or garbage  
78 leachate, refuse, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive  
79 substance, wrecked or discarded equipment, waste from mobile sources,  
80 industrial, municipal and agricultural waste.

81 **(7)** *Responsible Person* means the person or persons who cause a discharge  
82 of a potentially polluting substance, an illicit discharge or both. Responsible person  
83 includes the person on whose behalf the activity that results in the discharge was  
84 conducted, whether through employment of or contracting with the person who  
85 caused the discharge.

86 **(8)** *Stormwater* means runoff from precipitation including rain, snow, ice melt or  
87 similar water that moves on the land surface via sheet or channelized flow.

88  
89 **50.06 DISCHARGE OR RELEASE PROHIBITED.** It shall be unlawful for any  
90 person to cause or allow an illicit discharge, including permitting the escape of any  
91 potential polluting substance into waters of Dane County, or into any municipal

92 storm sewer system, or drainage way leading into any lake, wetland or stream, or  
93 to permit the same to be so discharged to the ground surface.

94  
95 **50.07 CLEAN-UP OF POTENTIALLY POLLUTING SUBSTANCES.**

96 Responsible persons, including the person who causes a discharge of a potentially  
97 polluting substance through any means including but not limited to delivering,  
98 hauling, disposing, storing, discharging or otherwise handling or maintaining  
99 potentially polluting substances shall be responsible for the immediate cleanup of  
100 any such spilled material to prevent its becoming an illicit discharge and causing  
101 pollution to the waters of Dane County.

102  
103 **50.08 DUTY TO NOTIFY.** Any person responsible for the illicit discharge or  
104 discharge of potentially polluting substances shall immediately report the  
105 discharge to Public Health Madison and Dane County.

106  
107 **50.09 FINANCIAL LIABILITY.** Any person responsible for the illicit discharge or  
108 discharge of potentially polluting substances may be held financially liable for the  
109 cost of any cleanup or attempted cleanup deemed necessary by Dane County, or  
110 its designated agent, in an effort to minimize the polluting effects of the discharge  
111 and restore the environment.

112  
113 **50.10 STORAGE OF POLLUTING SUBSTANCES.** It shall be unlawful for any  
114 person to store any potentially polluting substance in a manner that allows it to  
115 escape onto the ground surface, municipal storm sewer system, drainage way,  
116 wetland, lake or stream.

117  
118 **50.11 PENALTIES.**

119 **(1)** Any person who violates or refuses to comply with the provisions of this  
120 ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$2000  
121 and the costs of prosecution. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a  
122 separate offense.

123 **(2)** The corporation counsel is authorized to seek enforcement of any part of  
124 this ordinance by court action seeking injunctive relief. It shall not be necessary  
125 for the county to seek other remedies before seeking injunctive relief.

126  
127 **50.12 EFFECTIVE DATE.** The effective date of this ordinance shall be xxx. The  
128 provisions of this ordinance shall apply to any discharge discovered or occurring  
129 after that date.

130  
131 **50.13 SEVERABILITY.** The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to  
132 be severable. If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance or  
133 the application thereof to any person, establishment or circumstances shall be held  
134 invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this  
135 ordinance.

137 *[EXPLANATION: This ordinance prohibits the discharge of pollutants to the waters*  
138 *of Dane County and assesses responsibility and liability for such discharges.]*