

## What is the Program?

The Illicit Sewer Connection Amnesty Program is a program that the Town has established to reduce and eliminate illicit connections to the Town's sanitary sewer system.

Under the program, the Town, selected contractor licensed to work in the Town, and the Home Owner work collaboratively to disconnect existing illicit stormwater connections to an appropriate and legal discharge point. There is **NO FEE** to the Home Owner for those that apply during open enrollment. **OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS**

**ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.** Once open enrollment ends, all connection redirections will be the responsibility of the property owner for those who have not signed up for the amnesty program. Additionally, prior to obtaining a final water meter reading, the Town requires an inspection to assure there are not any illegal sewer connections. In other words, prior to selling property, all illegal connections must be redirected at the property owner's expense.



## Why Enroll?

Those who have an illicit connection to the Town sanitary sewer system **VIOLATE** state and local laws and subsequently violate federal laws. Violation of these laws **CAN RESULT IN FINES** levied by state and federal government.



### Illicit Sewer Connection Amnesty Program

Town of Burlington  
Engineering Division  
29 Center Street  
Burlington, MA 01803  
Phone: 781-270-1640  
Fax: 781-238-4693

[www.burlington.org](http://www.burlington.org)



## Illicit Sewer Connection Amnesty Program

**PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY  
FREE SERVICE FOR QUALIFIED  
APPLICANTS**

Town of Burlington  
Engineering Division

**ENDS DEC 31, 2010**



## What is an Illicit Sewer Connection?

An illicit sewer connection is a stormwater connection to the Town's sanitary sewer system.

Typical illicit sewer connections include:

- **Basement Sump Pumps**  
\*MOST TYPICAL\*
- **Roof Leaders**
- **Foundation/Cellar French Drains**
- **Driveway Drains**

When storm events occur, these devices convey "clean" stormwater runoff into the sanitary sewer system resulting in increased flows and unnecessary treatment of "clean" water. The excess flows can also occur during non storm events. Sump pumps or drains located below the water table will convey "clean" water to the sanitary sewer system and is typical in areas with high groundwater.

## Who must comply?

**EVERYONE** must comply with the law, including all government agencies, commercial properties, industrial properties, and residential properties.

## Why are Illicit Sewer Connections illegal?

Illicit sewer connections to the sanitary sewer system create many complications and issues for the entire community.

Sewer pipes and pumps at sewer pump stations in town are designed specifically for the sanitary sewer flows of the community, **not stormwater**. When excess flows from illicit connections occur, it overloads the sewer system. Once the system is overloaded, the wastewater has nowhere to go and backs up in the pipe, into sewer services, and if severe enough, into local homes and businesses potentially causing property damage. Pump stations may also overflow causing untreated wastewater to be discharged to surrounding properties potentially contaminating water resources and imposing hazards to the wildlife.

Excess flow in the sewer system not only poses overcapacity issues, but it also increases unnecessary costs for transporting and treating wastewater. The Town pays fees for every gallon of wastewater discharged to the MWRA. By reducing the amount of "clean" water in the sanitary sewer system, it will reduce costs assessed to the Town and its users.

**Effects of Illicit Sewer Connections and Increased Flows:**

- **Backup of wastewater in private residences**
- **Wastewater spills to critically sensitive areas and properties**
- **Violation of the Federal Clean Water Act**
- **Increased user costs due to unnecessary treatment of "clean" water**

## How to apply?

To apply for the Illicit Sewer Connection Amnesty Program, notify the Town of Burlington Engineering Division. The home owner, following a confirmed inspection by a Town Representative, will be put on a list of illicit connections. Developers needing sewer allocation will be given the option to redirect pumps from the list of home owners to obtain a sewer connection permit.

**REMINDER TO HOME OWNER:** The Illicit Connection Amnesty Program is based on when developers seek to obtain a sewer connection permit and on a first-come first-serve basis for the home owners as well as logistical basis. Although the actual redirection construction may take place after the amnesty program's end date, **THE TOWN WILL NOT ASSESS ANY PENALTIES TO RESIDENTS WHO SIGNED UP FOR THE AMNESTY PROGRAM. RESIDENTS ON THE AMNESTY LIST WILL BE PERPETUALLY PARDONED FROM TOWN PENALTIES UNTIL THEIR ILLICIT CONNECTION IS REMOVED.**

