



Table 39: Indicator Parameters Used to Detect Illicit Discharges

Parameter	Discharge Types It Can Detect				Laboratory/Analytical Challenges
	Sewage	Washwater	Tap Water	Industrial or Commercial Liquid Wastes	
Ammonia	●	⊙	○	⊙	Can change into other nitrogen forms as the flow travels to the outfall
Boron	⊙	⊙	○	N/A	
Chlorine	○	○	○	⊙	High chlorine demand in natural waters limits utility to flows with very high chlorine concentrations
Color	⊙	⊙	○	⊙	
Conductivity	⊙	⊙	○	⊙	Ineffective in saline waters
Detergents – Surfactants	●	●	○	⊙	Reagent is a hazardous waste
<i>E. coli</i> Enterococci Total Coliform	⊙	○	○	○	24-hour wait for results Need to modify standard monitoring protocols to measure high bacteria concentrations
Fluoride*	○	○	●	⊙	Reagent is a hazardous waste Exception for communities that do not fluoridate their tap water
Hardness	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	
pH	○	⊙	○	⊙	
Potassium	⊙	○	○	●	May need to use two separate analytical techniques, depending on the concentration
Turbidity	⊙	⊙	○	⊙	

● Can almost always (>80% of samples) distinguish this discharge from clean flow types (e.g., tap water or natural water). For tap water, can distinguish from natural water.
 ⊙ Can sometimes (>50% of samples) distinguish this discharge from clean flow types depending on regional characteristics, or can be helpful in combination with another parameter
 ○ Poor indicator. Cannot reliably detect illicit discharges, or cannot detect tap water
 N/A: Data are not available to assess the utility of this parameter for this purpose.
 Data sources: Pitt (this study)
 *Fluoride is a poor indicator when used as a single parameter, but when combined with additional parameters (such as detergents, ammonia and potassium), it can almost always distinguish between sewage and washwater.

12.2 Sample Collection Considerations

Sample collection is an important aspect of an IDDE program. Program managers need to be well informed about the key facets of sampling such as sample handling, QA/QC, and safety. The guidance in this section is limited to an overview of sample collection considerations including: equipment needed

for collecting samples, elements of sampling protocols, and general tips. Several useful documents are available that detail accepted water quality sampling protocols such as the following:

- Burton and Pitt (2002) - Stormwater Effects Handbook: A Toolbox for Watershed Managers, Scientists, and Engineers