

Landscaping

Stormwater is rainwater and snowmelt. When stormwater flows across parking lots and streets, it can pick up pollutants that empty directly into our rivers and streams through the storm drains on streets and in parking lots. Pollutants entering these drains flow untreated to the water bodies that we use for drinking water, swimming, and fishing.

Best management practices (BMPs) are specific steps to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities. All employees must make every effort to keep pollutants from going down the storm drain by putting the following BMPs into practice.

Landscaping, Lawn & Vegetation Maintenance

- Mulch-mow grass whenever possible.
- Sweep grass clippings onto landscaped areas; do not allow them to remain on the pavement.
- Do not allow irrigation system to over-water; adjust sprinklers accordingly.
- Avoid broadcast spraying of pesticides. Avoid spraying pesticides or fertilizers within 50 feet of any surface water or storm drainage structure. Follow all manufacturers' recommendations related to the handling of pesticides and fertilizers.

Spills

- If a spill occurs, control, contain, and clean up immediately using dry cleanup practices. Clean up and dispose of dirty absorbent properly. If a spill reaches the storm drain system, notify the municipality.

Material Storage, Loading & Unloading

- Cover and provide secondary containment for all liquids and materials stored outside.
- Do not load or unload materials near a storm drain inlet or drainage ditch.
- Do not store mulch, soil, or other landscaping materials in the street or on other impervious surfaces. If these materials must be stored on impervious surfaces, ensure that they are covered and contained.

Good Housekeeping

- Keep outdoor areas free from trash, dirt, litter and debris.
- Keep lids closed on dumpsters and recycle containers.
- Maintain storm drainage systems and permanent stormwater BMPs.

Outdoor Washing & Cleaning

- Use dry cleanup methods, such as a broom and dust pan, whenever possible. Direct water used for washing ambient dust and dirt to landscape for infiltration.
- Collect all water that contains soap, and dispose of it in a sanitary sewer.
- Wash all vehicles and mowers in a designated washing area that drains to the sanitary sewer, such as a commercial or designated car-washing facility. If this is not available, mowers (only) may be washed to an area that discharges to a grassy or vegetated buffer or infiltration area.

Design and Construction

- Use inlet protection devices or covers to protect any storm drain inlets during construction.
- Consider designing a rain garden, and direct roof drains to these areas.
- Incorporate swales and berms to your landscape so that runoff is contained.
- Consider using bricks, gravel, and other porous materials for driveways and walkways.