

Stormwater Protection

Business

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.

Spills & Leaks

- Keep outdoor areas free from spills and leaks.
- Keep spill kits available for cleaning up spills and leaks.
- Sweep and inspect parking lots regularly.
- Protect storm drains when cleaning or painting outside.
- 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 you're working in.

Outdoor Material Storage & Handling

- Cover and provide secondary containment for materials and containers stored outside.
- Take precautions and protect storm drains, if present, when handling bulk liquid (e.g. oil) deliveries and during loading and unloading.
- Contain and cover waste and material stockpiles.

Good Housekeeping

- Keep outdoor areas free from trash, dirt, litter, and debris.
- Keep lids closed on dumpsters and recycle containers. Make sure containers are free from spills and leaks.
- Maintain storm drainage systems and permanent stormwater BMPs (visit www.KeepItCleanPartnership.org for information about maintenance and training).
- Protect storm drains during maintenance work or construction projects.
- Discharge all wastewater to a sanitary sewer.

Outdoor Washing & Cleaning

- Only wash vehicles and equipment in a wash bay or where water drains to a sanitary sewer.
- Collect wastewater from pressure-washing activities. If using a contracted service provider, make sure they are properly collecting wastewater and implementing BMPs.

Additional Behaviors

- Limit the application of sand/salt, deicer, fertilizer, and pesticides, and always follow instructions on the label.
- Make sure all contractors, including landscapers, pressure washers, hood cleaners, carpet cleaners, and painters, are aware of their responsibility to protect stormwater.
- Dispose of wastewater, including chlorinated water, fire suppression water, HVAC or boiler cleaning water, pool water, street sweeping water, and storm drain cleaning water, to a sanitary sewer, or use BMPs outlined in permits and guidance.

