

Stormwater Protection

Gas Station

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, and train employees on your spill response plan.
- Sweep and inspect parking areas regularly.
- Use dry cleanup methods only.
- 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 that you're working in.

Outdoor Material Storage & Handling

- Cover and provide secondary containment for materials and containers stored outside.
- During bulk liquid transfer, cover or berm around all down-gradient storm drain inlets.
- Keep all drain valves in liquid bulk containers and secondary containments locked in the closed position.

Good Housekeeping

- Keep outdoor areas free from trash, dirt, litter, and debris.
- Keep lids closed on dumpsters and recycle containers.

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.
- Conduct regular maintenance of sand/oil separators in designated car wash areas to ensure there is proper drainage and water treatment.

Additional Behaviors

- 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.
- Post signage prohibiting "topping off" and describing spill response procedures.
- Keep a spill response kit at or near each fueling area.
- Require that the person doing fueling remains present during the entire fueling operation.

