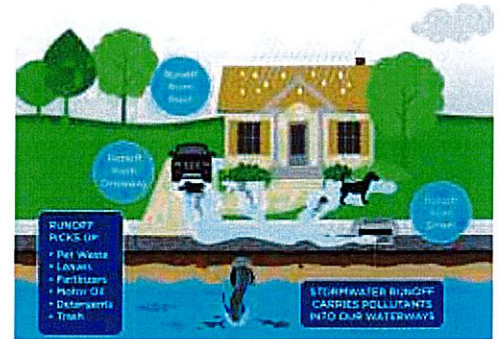


Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Municipal Facilities

What is Stormwater Runoff?

When it rains or when snow melts, the water that flows across of city streets, parking lots, construction sites and other solid surfaces can wash sediment, oil, grease, toxic material, pathogens and other pollutants into nearby storm drains where the stormwater is carried straight to the nearest river, lake or stream without receiving any treatment to remove the pollutants. Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.



What is a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan?

Every employee has a role to play in preventing polluted runoff. Many of your daily activities could result in accidental spills and leaks that, if not properly controlled, could adversely affect the storm drain system and our local waterways. Proper planning and preparation can enable municipal employees to effectively respond to problems when they occur and minimize the discharge of pollutants to the environment.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, or SWPPP, identifies the potential pollutant sources at your facility and describes the practices and measures that you use to reduce pollutant exposure to storm water. The SWPPP is a resource on how to prevent or respond to those situations where stormwater will contact, or has contacted, pollutant sources during daily facility operations. The SWPPP is also a place to document activities that have occurred like preventative maintenance, inspections, spills, and employee training.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are specific steps taken to prevent stormwater pollution from day-to-day activities at municipal facilities.

General BMPs:

Do not dump any liquids or other materials outside and cleanup your workspace at the end of each shift. Be familiar with the direction that stormwater flows and the location of any storm drains and spill kits in the facility. Mark any storm drain inlets at or near the facility with a marker or message such as “No Dumping - Drains to River”.

Material Storage and Loading:

Do not store any liquids or materials outside that could pollute surface water unless adequate secondary containment and cover are provided or the container is specifically designed for outdoor storage. Do not load or unload materials near a storm drain inlet or drainage ditch or over unpaved surfaces. Cover storm drains located near loading and unloading areas.

Landscaping, Lawn & Vegetation Maintenance

Mulch-mow grass. Sweep up paved surfaces and properly dispose of any grass clippings. **Do not blow grass clippings into the street.** Avoid broadcast spraying of pesticides and do not spray any pesticides or fertilizers within 50 feet of any surface water or storm drain structure. Follow all manufacturers' recommendations for mixing, applying, cleaning up, storage and handling for pesticides and fertilizers.

Pressure Washing

Use dry cleanup methods before any pressure washing. These include using absorbents (kitty litter, rags, sand, etc.) to clean up spills, sweeping, vacuuming and scraping off dried debris. The waste material should be disposed of properly.

IF you are **not** using any chemicals or detergents and you are only cleaning surfaces of ambient dust, THEN you may direct the wash water to nearby landscaping OR contain it on site and allow it to evaporate. When discharging to landscaping, make sure the water is being absorbed into the ground and not running off into a storm drain or paved area. All other wash water must be captured for disposal into the sanitary sewer.

Use the following types of equipment to protect storm drains and to contain and collect wash water: vacuum pumps, booms or berms, portable containment areas, weighted storm drain covers, inflatable plumber's plugs, holding tanks, portable sump pumps, hoses, absorbents. Once water is collected, dispose of it properly; dispose of wastewater in the sanitary sewer drain at the job site if you have permission from the property owner AND the wastewater treatment plant.

Good Housekeeping

Keep all outdoor work areas neat and tidy. Sweep around work areas after each shift and properly dispose of all wastes. Do not hose down any outdoor work areas or trash/waste container storage areas except where wash water will only enter the sanitary sewer (if approved). Dispose of all wastewater from cleaning into the sanitary sewer (including floor and carpet cleaning wastewater).

Waste Management and Disposal

All waste receptacles (dumpsters) must be sturdy, leak tight and equipped with lids or covers. Keep all outdoor dumpsters closed unless adding or removing material. Place dumpsters indoors or under a roof overhang whenever possible. Do not wash out waste receptacles unless wastewater will be discharged to a sanitary sewer. Never place liquids or liquid containing wastes in an outdoor receptacle.

Spill Cleanup and Prevention

Develop a formal "Spill Response Plan" and post near spill cleanup materials. Ensure that adequate spill kits are located near all work areas where materials are used, stored, loaded, off-loaded, or transferred and on vehicles. Cleanup any spills or leaks quickly and thoroughly. Use DRY CLEANUP METHODS only, **NEVER HOSE DOWN A SPILL**. If a spill is too large for you to control with basic spill kit supplies or if it is a hazardous material call the Environmental Emergency Response Hotline (888) 233-7745 or 911.

Parking Lots and Parking Garages

Parking lots and structures should be cleaned and inspected routinely. Any debris around the storm drain must be disposed of properly. Cleanup automotive spills or drips with dry cleanup methods (absorbents).

Painting and Staining

Use a ground cloth or oversized tub for mixing and tool cleaning. Enclose spray-painting operations with tarps or other means to minimize wind drift and contain overspray. Clean paintbrushes and tools used to apply water-based paints in sinks plumbed to a sanitary sewer or in portable containers that can be emptied into sanitary sewer drains. Clean brushes and tools used for oil-based paints, finishes, thinners, solvents or other materials over a tub or container and dispose of the cleaning wastes at an approved hazardous waste facility. Promptly clean up any spills of paints, cleaners, or other maintenance chemicals or supplies.

Report Signs of Stormwater Pollution

Federal, State and Local regulations prohibit non-stormwater discharges into any storm drain. Only uncontaminated rainwater and snowmelt can enter the drainage system. Our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program is designed to protect our neighborhoods, streams and our Wabash River from litter, pollutants and hazardous waste.

Signs of Illegal Discharges

By identifying sources of illicit discharges, potentially harmful stormwater runoff can be eliminated. Watch out for temporary or suspicious looking hoses, PVC pipes or connections discharging directly into catch basins, curb inlets or waterways; liquid flowing from a storm drain into a ditch during dry weather; unpleasant or chemical odors coming from a storm drain; colored or turbid water flowing from a storm drain or in a stream; floating materials like excessive foam, an oily sheen, or sewage in the pool below the storm drain outfall; unusual staining, discoloration or structural damage at a curb inlet or stormwater outfall pipe; or unusual vegetative growth or excessive algae blooms.



*If you see signs of illegal dumping or water pollution,
NOTIFY YOUR SUPERVISOR IMMEDIATELY!*

Together, we can take action quickly and protect our waterways.



Scan to report water pollution

Alicia Barnard, MS4 Group Coordinator, (812) 244-5500