

STORMWATER for LOCAL BUSINESSES

One of the most common types of pollution from businesses is contaminated water run-off, usually from cleaning and maintenance activities. Simple best management practices (BMPs) can prevent stormwater pollution, and prevention is good business. It means clean water, clean beaches and shows your customers you care about the community.

COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Sprinkler runoff carries pesticides and fertilizers into the storm drain system. Leaves, grass clippings and yard waste get swept or blown into the street, along with sediment from erosion, clogging catch basins and polluting waterways.



- ❖ Recycle leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste, instead of blowing, sweeping or hosing them into the street or gutter.
- ❖ Learn about grasscycling. Let grass clippings drop on the lawn, instead of using a grass catcher. The clippings act as a natural fertilizer, returning nutrients and organic matter back to the soil, and because grass is mostly water, it also irrigates lawns, conserving water. Reducing the need to water as often.
- ❖ Spot apply pesticides, rather than blanketing entire areas.
- ❖ Check for nontoxic alternatives to traditional pesticides and fertilizers.
- ❖ Do not put pesticides or fertilizers in the trash. Dispose of hazardous materials through a hazardous waste hauler or take them to a household hazardous waste collection site to be recycled.
- ❖ Control the amount of water and direction of sprinklers, to avoid waste and runoff.
- ❖ Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.

EROSION CONTROL DURING CONSTRUCTION

- ❖ Prevent erosion and sediment runoff by using berms and vegetation down-slope to capture runoff.
- ❖ Cover exposed piles or bags of soil, groundcover and other materials with plastic sheeting to prevent it from blowing or washing into the storm drain system.
- ❖ Reduce erosion by avoiding excavation or grading activities during wet weather, and by planting temporary vegetation on slopes where construction is not immediately planned.
- ❖ During construction, use erosion control barriers to prevent sediment discharges. See the Developers Brochure on Hudson's stormwater website for more tips and details.

KNOW THE LAW- Visit
www.townofhudson.org/stormwater
for more information

Any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the municipal storm drain system is called an Illicit Discharge. An illicit discharge is prohibited per section 3.2 of the Hudson's stormwater rules and regulations. A violation of this may be subject to penalties per section 5.2 of the stormwater rules and regulations.



Washing activities can create contaminated runoff that pollutes our streams after entering the storm drains. Contaminants include soaps, oil and grease, dirt, heavy metals, and whatever is being washed off such as pet waste, vehicle grime and other organic material.

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COMMERCIAL STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Parking Lots, Trash receptacles, Grease traps, Septic tanks, Landscape Maintenance, Erosion Controls and Vehicle washing



HUDSON
MASSACHUSETTS

Keep leaves off storm drains



Blowing leaves



into the street and onto storm drains



causes flooding

As a Business owner in our town of Hudson, you are responsible for all pollutants that leave your property. You play a big role in keeping our rivers and streams clean. Follow these tips to prevent spills and reduce polluted run off.



Dumpsters and waste storage containers kept outside can be a major source of pollution if not maintained properly.

Keep dumpsters and waste storage containers clean, closed, and/or covered to prevent overflow and leaks due to rainwater.



RESTAURANTS:

Food waste, grease, cleaning solvents, mop water and trash from restaurant operations often make their way into the drain system polluting local waterways.

- ❖ Clean floor mats, filters and garbage cans in a mop sink or floor drain.
- ❖ Pour wash water into a janitorial or mop sink, not outside in the parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.
- ❖ Use non-toxic cleaning products.

Grease & hazardous materials, Spills:

- ❖ Recycle grease and oil, instead of pouring it into sinks, floor drains or into a parking lot or the street.
- ❖ Legally dispose of all unwanted harmful materials like cleaning products through a hazardous waste hauler. These items are not trash.
- ❖ Use dry methods for spill cleanup, by sweeping and using cat litter instead of hosing. Have spill containment and cleanup kits available for possible spills on your property. To report serious toxic spills, call 911.

Outside maintenance:

Keep dumpster lids closed and the areas around them clean. Do not fill with liquid waste or hose them out. Call your trash hauler to replace any dumpsters that leak. Sweep outside areas regularly and put the debris in the garbage, instead of sweeping or hosing it into the parking lot or the street.



DO store chemicals and hazardous materials according to manufacturer's instructions.

DON'T store waste materials incorrectly. They should be kept in secure containers.

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES:

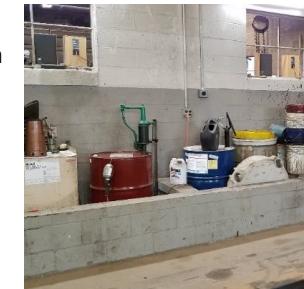
Motor oil, anti-freeze, grease and other toxic fluids from auto repair and gas station operations often make their way into the storm drain system, and flow untreated into local waterways.

Preventing leaks and managing spills:

- ❖ Use drip pans to catch leaks when pouring and draining fluids.
- ❖ Prevent leaks from stored vehicles by draining gas, hydraulic oil and transmission, brake and radiator fluids.
- ❖ In case of a hazardous spill, follow your hazardous materials response plan as filed with your local fire department or other hazardous materials authority.

Storing and disposing of hazardous materials:

- ❖ Keep liquid wastes segregated. Many fluids can be recycled through hazardous waste disposal companies, as long as they are not mixed.
- ❖ Store hazardous materials under cover or inside.



Cleaning and maintenance:

- ❖ Use dry methods, by sweeping and using absorbent cleaning agents, to clean work areas, instead of hosing them down.
- ❖ Sweep outside areas regularly and put the debris in the garbage, instead of sweeping or hosing it into the street.



Vehicle Washing:

- ❖ Wash vehicles at a washing facility that reclaims water. If washed at your business, use berms or sweep to keep contaminated wash water from flowing into the street.
- ❖ Use nontoxic detergents and cleaners.

PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE:

- ❖ Sweep your parking lot to remove debris, chemicals and leaves. Do not hose down paved areas!
- ❖ Check parking lot for signs of automotive leaks/spills. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like cat litter or sand and dispose of it properly. Never rinse a spill into a storm drain.
- ❖ Reduce stormwater flowing from your property by letting it soak into the ground in a rain garden or vegetated filter strip closest to the parking lot where stormwater can flow over the surface into it.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Soil, cement wash, asphalt and oil from construction sites often make their way into the storm drain system, and flow untreated into local waterways.

Concrete and Mortar application:

- ❖ Prevent mortar and cement from entering storm drains by placing erosion controls such as berms or temporary vegetation down-slope to capture runoff.
- ❖ Wash concrete mixers and equipment only in specified washout areas, where the water flows into containment ponds. Cement wash water can be recycled by pumping it back into cement mixers for reuse. Never dispose of cement washout into driveways, streets, gutters or drainage ditches.

Handling materials and waste:

- ❖ Cover exposed piles or bags of soil, cement and other construction materials with plastic sheeting to prevent it from blowing or washing into the storm drain system.
- ❖ Recycle broken asphalt, concrete, wood and cleared vegetation.
- ❖ Store hazardous materials under cover or inside, to prevent leaks and spills
- ❖ Dispose of hazardous materials through a hazardous waste hauler or other means in accordance with the construction permit.

Managing spills:

In case of a hazardous spill, follow your hazardous materials response plan as filed with your local fire department or other hazardous materials authority.

Equipment maintenance:

- ❖ Inspect vehicles and equipment frequently for leaks.
- ❖ Perform major equipment repairs and washing off site.
- ❖ Use gravel approaches where truck traffic is frequent to reduce soil compaction and limit the tracking of sediment into the streets.



Know that Sewer is different from Drain. Drains only carry rain water / stormwater and lead to streams and rivers untreated. Sewer carries sewage and leads to your wastewater treatment plant.

Septic tank maintenance: It is illegal to discharge sewer into anything other than sewer infrastructure.

- ❖ Inspect/ clean your septic tank regularly to avoid overflows.
- ❖ Do not park or drive vehicles on any part of your septic system.
- ❖ In order to avoid damage from roots, do not plant trees or shrubs over or near your septic system.
- ❖ Do not allow sewage / wastewater to flow into storm drains, ditches, streets, etc.

