



Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Municipal Contractors

Municipal Contractors

Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.

Storm Water Services has many programs to protect water quality. They include enhancement and restoration of waterways, maintenance of the storm drainage system, enforcement of pollution control regulations and education.



Municipal Contractor Problems



Many practices in different industries have the potential to cause polluted discharges that are harmful to the environment, hazardous to public health and against the law. Common pollutants include sediment, concrete wash, asphalt, oil, fuel, paints, and trash. Storm drains lead directly to a stream or lake without any treatment, so any wastewater dumped into them can be very harmful to water quality and aquatic life.

You may already be implementing many of the best management practices (BMPs) described in this flyer. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPs.

Solutions

Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

Following the best management practices for your industry that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.



For More Information

To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding municipal contractors call 311 or visit <http://stormwater.charmeck.org> and click on Pollution Prevention.

Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.

Waste Water Disposal



- ◆ Discharge wastewater from painting, cleaning or pressure washing activities only into a drain connected to the sanitary sewer system. Check with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities **before** discharging to the sanitary sewer. Call 311.
- ◆ Wastewater from oil-based products is hazardous waste and cannot be disposed of into the sanitary sewer.
- ◆ Do not lift a sewer manhole to discharge wastewater – it is illegal to do so.

Materials Storage and Waste Management

- ◆ Store fertilizers, equipment, drums, batteries and similar items where they are not exposed to stormwater. If such items are stored in areas exposed to stormwater, store them on pallets and ensure that drum caps and lids are in place to avoid rain water from entering the containers and causing them to overflow.
- ◆ Do not pour waste such as used oil, solvents, brake fluid, fuel or similar items into floor drains, sinks, outdoor storm drains or sanitary sewer connections.
- ◆ Be aware that some waste products, especially certain cleaners and solvents, may be hazardous waste and require special storage, handling and disposal.
- ◆ Separate wastes to allow for easier recycling. Doing so may also reduce treatment costs.



Spills and Leaks



- ◆ When transporting product containers on a vehicle, properly secure the containers to ensure that spills do not occur.
- ◆ Carry spill response materials on business vehicles in case a spill occurs.
- ◆ Do not hose down outside spills. Use absorbent and dry cleanup methods instead.
- ◆ Maintain equipment (tanks, hoses and fittings) to prevent leaks.
- ◆ Report spills and leaks greater than 25 gallons or any amount that enters the storm drain system to 311.

Fertilizers and Pesticides

- ◆ Avoid applying fertilizers and pesticides near streams, lakes and ponds.
- ◆ Conduct soil tests to determine the proper amount of fertilizer to apply to lawns.
- ◆ Calibrate fertilizer applicators to avoid excessive spreading of fertilizer.
- ◆ Before irrigating, sweep fertilizer that has settled on paved areas.
- ◆ Read and follow label directions and MSDSs for proper use, storage and disposal of fertilizers and pesticides.



Employee Training

- ◆ Train all employees upon hiring and each year thereafter.
- ◆ Post these Best Management Practices where employees can see them.
- ◆ Report illegal dumping by calling 311.



Visit stormwater.charmeck.org and click on “Pollution Prevention” for more information.