

PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION FROM MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

City of Ann Arbor • Stormwater Fact Sheet for Field Staff

Stormwater is runoff from rain or snowmelt that flows off streets, rooftops, and lawns into storm drains. From storm drains, runoff flows directly into streams, lakes and rivers. Unlike wastewater, which flows through the sanitary sewer system to the wastewater treatment plant, stormwater receives **no treatment** before being discharged to surface waters.



Some day-to-day operations at municipal facilities can pose a threat to water quality if practices and procedures are not in place to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system. Such activities include winter road maintenance, minor road repairs and other infrastructure work, automobile fleet maintenance, vehicle fueling, equipment cleaning, landscaping and parks maintenance, and building maintenance.

Two goals of stormwater management in the City of Ann Arbor are:

1. To keep clean water clean by minimizing the exposure of significant materials such as sediment, salt and chemicals to stormwater.
2. To ensure practices and procedures are in place to effectively remove any pollutants that are exposed to stormwater before they are discharged to local surface waters.

Here's what you can do for CLEAN WATER

In general

- Always maintain clean, dry work surfaces.
- Pick up waste materials regularly.
- Inspect work areas for leaks and spills.
- Remember that storm drains are intended for stormwater only.

Dumpsters and Loading Docks

- Keep dumpster lids closed and inspect for leaks.
- Never place hazardous wastes in a dumpster or trash bin.
- Check loading and unloading equipment regularly for leaks.
- Do not hose out the dumpster interior or loading docks. Apply absorbent material over any fluids spilled in the dumpster.

Vehicle and Equipment Fueling

- Look for and report vehicle leaks when adding fuel.
- Avoid topping off fuel tanks.
- Use secondary containment when transferring fuel from the tank truck to the fuel tank
- Cover storm drains in the vicinity during bulk fuel transfer.
- Place spill cleanup materials where they are readily accessible.
- Clean up small spills with absorbent materials rather than hosing down the area.
- Remove absorbent materials promptly and dispose of them in the trash.

Vehicle and Equipment Washing

- Wash vehicles and equipment only in designated areas where the wash water drains to the sanitary sewer system.

Vehicle Parking and Equipment Storage

- Inspect parking and storage areas for leaks.
- Store vehicles and equipment inside or under cover to prevent precipitation from washing pollutants into the storm drain.
- Store vehicles on a paved area that you can sweep regularly to remove drips, leaks, and dirt.

Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

- Keep accurate maintenance logs and an up-to-date inventory of materials.
- Perform vehicle maintenance in covered, designated service areas where spills and leaks can be properly contained.
- Recycle spent fluids - never dump them down the drain or into the trash.
- Avoid hosing down work areas. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general clean-up, and dry absorbent for larger spills.




Chemical Management – preventing leaks and spills

- Fit oil and chemical storage containers with secondary containment to contain spilled materials.
- Store materials indoors whenever possible. If materials are stored outdoors, keep them covered to prevent rain from contacting the material.
- Cover and/or contain, through erosion control practices, stockpiles of raw materials (e.g., salt, soil) to prevent polluted stormwater runoff.
- Keep containers and other storage devices in good condition without leaky seams or corrosion.

Chemical Management – when a spill occurs

- If a spill occurs, notify the key spill response personnel.
- If the material is hazardous, contact the local fire department.
- Never wash a spill into the storm drain or leave it without cleaning it up - contain the spill and block the nearby storm drain.
- Clean up non-hazardous spills using a rag, damp cloth, or absorbent materials.

What controls are in place to manage polluted stormwater runoff from municipal operations?

Catch Basin Inserts	Spill Kits	Vegetative Buffers	Stormwater Basins
	<p style="text-align: center;">WARNING: NEVER HOSE DOWN A SPILL! CLEAN IT UP PROMPTLY AND DISPOSE OF THE WASTE PROPERLY.</p>		
<p>Geo-textile inserts filter sediment, debris, and other significant materials from stormwater.</p>	<p>Used to clean up spills and prevent materials from entering storm drains.</p>	<p>Buffers help slow stormwater runoff and filter out some dissolved sediments and other pollutants.</p>	<p>Stormwater flow is often directed to stormwater basins, either detention basins (temporary storage) or retention basins (long-term storage).</p>