

For more information, contact:

Robert Haley

Stormwater Coordinator

Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department

220 NW Broad Street

(615) 848-3200



*Preventing Pollution
in our Creeks*



A GUIDE FOR OPERATORS OF
Automotive Businesses
and
Parking Lots



Do you know where water on the pavement goes?

Some people think that runoff from the streets flows down storm drains to our local wastewater treatment plant. This is a common misconception!



Anything that enters the storm drains flows to the creeks. This includes pollution from parking lots and automotive businesses.

Our creeks are being polluted.

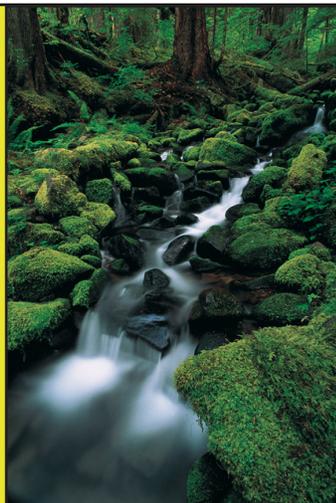
Used motor oil, bacteria, toxic chemicals, heavy metals and other types of pollution have been found in local creeks. Pollution can be unsafe for people and affect aquatic life.

What's Causing the Pollution?

In our area, the sanitary sewer system and the storm drain system are separate from each other. Storm drain system openings (catch basins) are located outside in gutters, alleys and streets. The storm drains empty directly into creeks. All materials, such as liquid and trash, that are poured, spilled or dumped on streets, alleys and gutters enter the storm drains. This waste travels into creeks without being treated.

To keep creeks clean only rain goes down the storm drain!

All other discharge to the storm drain should be prevented. Keeping parking lots and other outdoor areas clean helps prevent discharge of pollutants to the storm drains.



Litter Control

Provide an adequate number of trash receptacles for your customers and employees. Post signs to control litter. Routinely inspect your premises and pick up any litter. Keep the receptacles covered and out of the rain. If liquids discharge from the receptacles, this leachate must not enter the storm drains.



- First, keep liquids from entering the bins
- Second, contain any liquids that may drip
- Third, clean up any liquid before it reaches the storm drain collection system.

Waste Disposal

Inspect containers and dumpsters routinely. Repair or replace leaky dumpsters or containers. Clean trash storage areas using the dry methods discussed above. Cover dumpsters and waste containers. Do not dispose of liquid wastes in the dumpster. Never dispose of products in storm drain catch basins.

Storm Drains

Label drains within the facility boundary, identifying drains that go to an oil/water separator, to sanitary sewer, and to the storm water system. Inspect and clean storm drain catch basins before October 1 each year. The Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department can provide drain labels for storm water inlets.



Runoff

“Zero Discharge” in dry weather can be achieved by following the above BMPs. However, when it rains, contaminants on paved surfaces are mobilized and conveyed to the storm water system with the “first flush” runoff. Special filters or oil absorbing pillows can be retrofitted to existing storm drains to remove much of the oil and grease in the runoff.

Also, facility remodel or resurfacing projects are great opportunities for storm water system improvements. Contact MWSD for information about onsite storm water treatment.

Solution: Best Management Practices

Owners and operators of parking lots and automotive businesses can apply Best Management Practices (BMPs) to their daily activities. These “good housekeeping” practices can significantly reduce their contribution to storm water pollution.

The objectives are to:

- 1) keep pollutants from contacting rain
- 2) keep pollutants from being dumped or inadvertently discharged into storm drains.

*The goal is:
Only rain in the
storm drain.*



The BMPs that follow are keyed to specific activities, and describe recommended management practices to control pollutants from specific activities.



As a rule, the BMPs are intended to describe “state-of-the-art practices,” to be implemented every day, except where the practice is not reasonable or economically feasible. Many of these practices are straight-forward, common sense housekeeping activities, and many may already be in place at your facility.

These recommended practices are intended to help you protect storm water quality, and to help you avoid causing pollution incidents and being subject to enforcement actions.

PROBLEM AREAS

FUEL PUMPS

Never wash down fuel dispensing areas allowing the runoff to flow to the storm drain! If fuel dispensing areas require cleaning with water, then the runoff must be collected and disposed of properly. Remember, picking up this water with a mop can turn your mop water into hazardous waste!



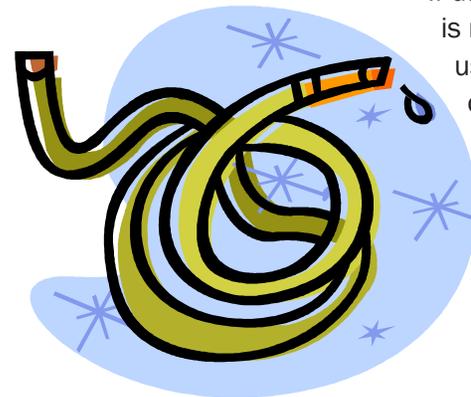
PAVEMENT CLEANING

Drips from automobiles contain lead, cadmium, zinc and copper, which have chronic toxic effects on aquatic plants and animals. These heavy metals often attach to particles of dirt. Sweep parking lots and other paved areas periodically to remove debris.

- Dispose of debris in the garbage.
- Vacuum or hand sweep areas too small to machine sweep.
- If oil and grease are present, use an absorbent material to collect the oils, sweep up the solids, and dispose in the garbage.

WASH WATER

Wash water from all cleaning areas (except public sidewalks) must be disposed of to sanitary sewers. If you are cleaning with water and detergent, including bio-degradable soaps, use a mobile washing unit that has a runoff containment system, such as a boom and vacuum. Do not allow the wash water (whether or not it is soapy) to discharge to the storm drain system.



If using a self-contained mobile cleaner is not feasible, capture the wash water using a portable berm and then vacuum or pump the water to a container. Pour the wash water into a mop sink or other indoor sanitary sewer drain. Or discharge the wash water - without grit or gravel - to a sanitary sewer cleanout.

VEHICLE WASHING

As with other wash water, you must prevent the discharge of vehicle washwater to a storm sewer system.

If it is not feasible to take the vehicle to a commercial washing facility, then use a system to collect and capture the washwater. Use a portable, flexible berm - these are available from several vendors - and collect the washwater on the ground as it leaves the washing area. With a wet vacuum, then contain the water for disposal to a mop sink or to your sanitary sewer cleanout, ensuring pebbles and grit are not discharged with the water.



RECYCLING WASH WATER

Recycling wash water is environmentally the best solution, and for some businesses, such as car washes, it can be the most economical one. By treating wash water onsite and reusing it, car washes are able to reduce metered water usage, which may reduce overall water and sewer utility charges.

DRIPS

Keep your operations under cover to prevent rain or runoff from coming into contact with spilled fluids. Place vehicles waiting for service in a covered area. Otherwise, place a drip pan under each vehicle. Drip pans need to be removed when it is raining to prevent accumulation of rain water or accidental overflow.

SPILLS

Create a cleanup plan and know how to follow it. Make sure all workers know what to do in the event of a spill. Small spills and drips can be cleaned up with rags. Avoid paper towels. For medium-sized spills, use absorbent material (kitty litter) to soak up the liquids. Contain the liquid while you clean it up using absorbent snakes. (These are sold by waste control equipment manufacturers.) Dispose of absorbent properly. Larger spills, in the shop or out of doors, must be contained, then cleaned up.



We Need Your Help!

Are your business practices sending pollution to the creek?

Storm water runoff from parking lots contributes to urban runoff pollution. Automotive fluids, food wastes, grease, pesticides, litter, detergents and landscape wastes are some of the pollutants that get into the storm drain system.



Preventing these pollutants from entering the storm water system is vital to clean creeks. Also, the City of Murfreesboro City Code Chapter 27½ - 13 Illicit Discharges prohibits anyone from discharging pollutants into the storm water system.

By using good housekeeping methods, you can prevent pollution in our creeks.

The common sense, good housekeeping measures outlined in this brochure can be implemented with little effort and at a reasonable cost to the facility owner/operator.

In case of major spills, contact:

- 911
- Rutherford County Emergency Management Agency (615) 898-7764
- Tennessee Emergency Management Association 1-800-262-3300