

Stormwater Pollution

What is Stormwater? Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and other pollutants.

What is the Problem?

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted water directly into lakes, rivers, and streams with no treatment. This is known as Stormwater Pollution. Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Fortunately, stormwater pollution can be prevented or minimized by implementing Best Management Practices which are procedures or activities that reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater.



How to Prevent Pollution from Fueling and Service Stations

Fuels, oil, grease, floor solvents, cleaning agents, cigarette butts, food waste, paper napkins, and Styrofoam all contribute to the pollution of our waterways. By implementing proper cleaning and waste management practices the introduction of these pollutants to our waterways can be avoided.

Fuels, Fuel bi-products, and related pollutants invade storm drain systems and increase toxic levels, which harm birds, fish, and other aquatic life, cause beach closures, and impair our drinking water supplies. Floating materials also pollute our lakes and streams and reduce natural beauty of our waterways. This results in a negative impact on aesthetics of our natural resources and tourism/recreation opportunities.



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Stormwater
Pollution Prevention

Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Fueling and Servicing Stations

This fact sheet provides basic information and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for Gas Stations and Convenience Stores



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Potential Pollutant Sources

The following activities are potential sources of pollution from the food service industry:

- ◆ Dumpster Areas
- ◆ Equipment and Facility Cleaning
- ◆ Vehicle Cleaning
- ◆ Fueling Areas
- ◆ Air Supply Areas

Pollutants Include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Heavy Metals (Copper, Lead, Zinc)
- ◆ Hydrocarbons (Oil and Grease)
- ◆ Toxic Chemicals (Benzene, Toluene)
- ◆ Trash and Litter

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines a BMP as a technique, process, activity, or structure used to reduce the pollutant content of a stormwater discharge. BMPs may include simple nonstructural methods, such as good housekeeping and preventative maintenance. BMPs may also include sophisticated, structural modifications, such as sediment basins or other engineered equipment.

Pollution Prevention

The following activities are effective pollution prevention activities:

- Use non-toxic cleaning substances
- Reduce stormwater flows across parking lots and redirect flow away from storm drains
- Reduce the use of water to clean parking lots by using dry methods
- Recycle and reuse waste products, and
- Provide employee training for good housekeeping practices

Recommended BMPs

General

- Contain wash water. **DO NOT** dispose of in the gutter, alley, or street.
- Maintain grounds
- Maintain all good housekeeping practices
- Routinely inspect for and clean leaks and drips
- Label drains within the facility boundary to indicate whether they flow to a grease trap, sewer, or storm drain



Sweeping up a spill instead of washing it away.

Fueling Area

- Have spill containment and clean-up materials available and accessible
- Use dry clean-up methods to maintain fuel dispensing area
- Direct downspouts and water away from fueling area
- Slope pavement around fueling areas to prevent ponding
- Install protective barriers or equipment around fuel tanks and pipes to prevent spills

Dumpster Area

- Use water tight receptacles and keep lids closed
- Bag and seal food waste before placing in dumpsters
- Keep areas around dumpsters clean and secure to prevent illegal dumping
- Clean observed spills up immediately
- Ensure area is graded to prevent stormwater run-off or install low containment berms around the area
- Prevent excess garbage by emptying dumpsters frequently

Spill Clean-Up

- Develop and maintain a spill response plan
- Have a supply of spill clean-up materials on hand and easily accessible
- Spot clean leaks and drips daily
- Clean spills with little or no water
- Use dry methods for spill clean-up, **SWEEP** instead of hosing. Cat litter, speedy dry, sand, and sawdust can be used.
- Keep spills from entering storm drains



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