

Commercial Landscape Maintenance

Stormwater Best Management Practices



Storm drains are found in our streets and parking lots. You probably walk by a few of them a day, but just don't think much about them. Storm drains are put in place to gather stormwater runoff and bring to our local waterways (rivers, lakes, washes, and retention basins). Storm drains don't remove any pollution before entering our waterways. Stormwater runoff is now one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows over parking lots and streets. So, if commercial landscapers aren't careful with disposal and cleanup procedures, they could be harming the environment. With the right knowledge, staff can prevent pollution from entering storm drains, therefore, helping to improve the water quality in local waterways.

What Can I Do?

- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers; do not apply if rain or wind is predicted. Use natural, non-toxic alternatives if possible, avoid applying near curbs and driveways, and use pesticides and fertilizers only as directed.
- Store landscaping materials safely—keep landscaping materials away from street, gutter, and storm drains. Cover stockpiles of soil, compost or mulch with a tarp.
- Recycle or compost yard waste—do not blow, rake, sweep, or hose it into streets, waterways, or the storm drain system.
- Avoid overwatering to prevent runoff—inspect sprinklers; repair leaks, and misaligned sprinkler heads. Plant native vegetation to reduce the need for irrigation.
- Properly dispose of chemicals—do not pour into sink, storm drain, or street.
- Prevent erosion—use ground cover, berms, and vegetation to capture runoff.
- Train employees to practice pollution prevention; post best management practice guidelines.



For additional information or questions, please contact:
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