



Tempe Environmental Bulletin

March 2017

Commercial BMP's

Did you know?

The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Storm water runoff in the City of Tempe is not treated, but goes directly into our lakes, rivers and parks. That is why it is so important to ensure that pollutants do not end up in storm drains.

Exterior Washing (including floor mats)

Do Not dispose of water containing debris, grease, soap or organic solvent cleaning agents into a storm drain. This is a direct violation of the state and/or local regulations.

Wash water from walkway, plaza, and routine building surface cleaning may go into a street or storm drain if **ALL of the following conditions are met:**

1. The surface being washed is free of accumulated pollutants such as oil stains, debris, etc. Use dry cleanup methods (sweeping, and cleaning any oil or chemical spills with rags or other absorbent materials) before using water.
2. Washing is done with water only - no soap or other cleaning materials.
3. The water does not remove paint or other coatings from surfaces during cleaning.

Otherwise wash water should be discharged into the sanitary sewer.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Businesses and Industries

Plan ahead to prevent storm water pollution, from commercial storm water runoff, by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMP's are preventive measures used to reduce the exposure of materials to storm water, thereby limiting the amounts of pollutants available to be picked up by storm water. Preventive measures are very cost effective ways to manage storm water runoff.

Debris Removal

Storm water conveyance structures require debris removal to maintain proper function. Litter can clog inlets, catch basins and outlets, leading to overflows and flooding and making the devices ineffective. Grates and inlets should be inspected frequently to determine if cleaning is required.



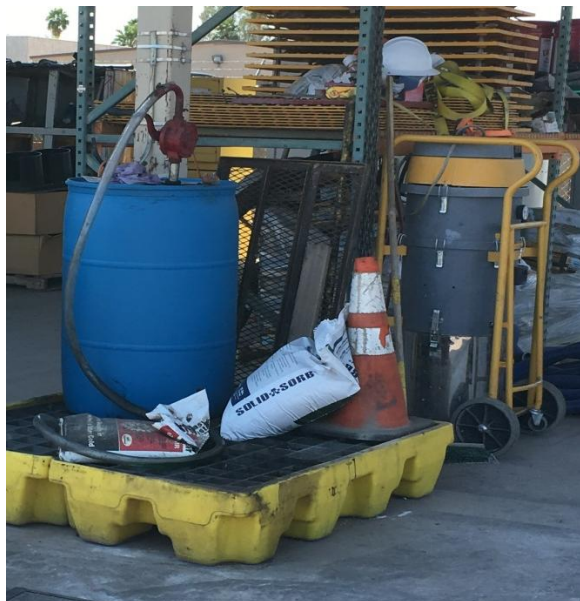
Flooding caused by clogged inlet

Minimize Pollutants

Significant storm water pollution may be avoided by removing potential pollutants from the watershed, using alternatives to chemicals and/or practices to minimize chemical use, and recycling chemicals and other materials.

Exposure Reduction

Good housekeeping activities including keeping the site and parking lots and clean will help reduce pollutants in runoff when performed on a regular basis. One of the best and least expensive ways to reduce pollutants in storm water is to limit the exposure of materials that are potential pollutants to rainfall and/or runoff. Covering materials is one of the best ways to achieve this goal. Maintenance of pollution control devices ensures devices are in good working order and available to reduce toxic substances and particulates.



Secondary containment for pollution control



Covered outside storage

Waste Disposal

Dispose of liquid wastes properly. Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured. Keep all solid waste away from water exposure, be sure they are covered. Keep the lids closed. Contact your waste service provider if repair is needed on lid or if the bin is leaking.



Improper waste containment
(close the lid, no liquid waste in bin)

For more Best Management Practices you can use to reduce the risk of adding pollutants to stormwater visit tempe.gov/stormwater and remember... **Only Rain Down the Drain!!**