



## Tempe Environmental Bulletin

September 30, 2020

Commercial & Industrial BMP's

### Stormwater 101 for Commercial and Industrial Facilities

The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Stormwater runoff in the City of Tempe is not treated and goes directly into area lakes, rivers and parks. That is why it is so important to ensure that stormwater does not come into contact with, and transport, contaminants to storm drains. Performing proper Best Management Practices (BMPs) at facilities is important in preventing stormwater pollutants from entering the storm drain system. Together, we can be the solution to stormwater pollution.



### Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Businesses

**Prevent stormwater pollution from commercial and industrial stormwater runoff by implementing the following BMPs. These BMPs, along with employee training and education, are cost-effective ways for businesses to manage stormwater runoff. Contact Tempe for training opportunities and informational brochures.**



**Flooding caused by a clogged inlet**

## Exterior Washing

Wash water from walkways, plazas and building surfaces may go into a street or storm drain if ALL of the following conditions are met:

- Use dry cleanup methods to ensure the surface is free of accumulated pollutants such as oil and debris.
- Gather debris with broom and dispose of in a proper receptacle
- Clean oil or chemical spills with rags or other absorbent materials
- Wash surfaces with water only - do not use soap or other cleaning materials.
- Pressure wash with minimal water, use a wet vacuum with a holding tank and dispose of wash water in the sanitary sewer.
- If wash water contains soap or cleaning materials, dispose into the sanitary sewer.
- Clean floor mats indoors.

## Minimize Pollutants

Stormwater pollution may be avoided by removing potential pollutants from the watershed.

- Use alternatives to chemicals and/or practices to minimize chemical use.
- Recycle chemicals and other materials.
- Ensure company vehicles are free of engine fluid leaks.
- Schedule application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on days when rain is not in the forecast.

## Exposure Reduction

When performed on a regular basis, good housekeeping will help reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. One of the best and least expensive ways to reduce pollutants in stormwater is to limit the exposure of materials, that are potential pollutants, to rainfall and/or stormwater runoff. Covering materials and utilizing secondary containment are some 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.



Covered Outside Storage



Secondary Containment for pollution control

## Waste Disposal

- Properly dispose of liquid waste.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured.
- Keep dumpster lids closed to prevent stormwater exposure.
- Contact your waste service provider if repair is needed on a lid or if the bin is leaking.
- Check parking lots and storage yards periodically for trash.
- Pick up trash daily.
- Label stormwater inlets.
- Provide trash receptacle(s) near entrance(s).

More Best Management Practices, to reduce the risk of adding pollutants to stormwater, can be found at [tempe.gov/stormwater](http://tempe.gov/stormwater). Remember... Only Rain Down the Storm Drain.

