

Maintenance Guide for small businesses

Follow these best practices to help keep our water clean.

TOPIC

BEST PRACTICE

Dumpsters

Keep dumpster areas free from litter, debris, and sediments.



- Schedule regular waste pick-ups.
- Keep dumpsters and waste bins covered. Anything in an uncovered dumpster or trash bin is vulnerable to the weather, and can wash into nearby stormdrains during wet weather.
- Never wash dumpsters with a hose. If cleaning is needed, contact the leasing company.
- Check dumpsters regularly for leaks, and replace if necessary.

Cleaning Outdoor Areas



- Dry sweep paved areas on a regular basis, including parking lots, patios, dumpster areas.
- Do NOT use a hose to wash down pavement.
- Dispose of debris in waste containers only. Do not sweep trash, yardwaste, sand, salt or ice melt chemicals into the gutter or stormdrain.
- Avoid over-salting in the winter, and sweep up any excess or spills.

General Cleaning



- Don't pour wash water or chemicals down a stormdrain.
- Dispose of wash water down a sanitary sewer. (sink or toilet).
- Be sure to store all chemicals in appropriate containers that don't leak.
- Any excess chemical spills, especially outdoors, should be swept up immediately.
- Use cleaning products that are non-toxic to vegetation and wildlife.

Landscaping

You can save time and money, and prevent stormwater runoff by making a few simple changes to your routine. Talk to your landscaper about ways to prevent excessive use of lawn chemicals and irrigation runoff.



- Limit the use of lawn chemicals and always follow directions.
 - Test your grass before adding fertilizer. Why pay for services and materials that you may not need? Have your soil tested at the UMass Extension: <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/>
 - Use organic fertilizer whenever possible. Organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer causes less harm to water. Also make sure to use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus—phosphorus causes algae growth.
- Fertilizers are made of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus. When it rains, these nutrients are carried by stormwater into the nearest water body. Too many nutrients in water can cause algae to grow, which can deplete oxygen and hurt aquatic wildlife - and make boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant.*

Irrigation

Before you begin to irrigate, keep in mind that just one inch of water per week from rain/irrigation is enough to keep a lawn green.



- To avoid water loss, evaporation, and runoff:
- Avoid irrigating when it's windy. The best time to water is early morning.
 - Make sure that sprinkler heads are pointed at the lawn and not the pavement - adjust and fix heads as necessary.
 - Upgrade to a moisture sensor to ensure irrigating only when needed, and avoid using old-fashioned irrigation timers.

Hardscapes

Patios, sidewalks, and driveways are examples of hardscapes that may cause stormwater runoff, depending on what type of materials are used to build them.



- Keep all asphalt and concrete to a minimum and whenever possible, use bricks, pavers, or stone to create pathways and patios.
- Use sand (not concrete) between bricks, to allow water to percolate through the seams, rather than runoff into stormdrains.

Storage of Materials



- All chemical cleaners, road salt, fertilizers, pesticides, and gas and oil for machinery, should be stored in appropriate containers that don't leak.
- Any excess chemical spills should be swept up immediately.

We're working with your town to reduce stormwater pollution.

Learn more at www.nepwater.org



An important message from your DPW.

Stamp
goes
here

Neponset Stormwater Partnership
2173 Washington St.
Canton, MA 02021

Prevent stormwater pollution in our community.

What is stormwater pollution?



Stormwater pollution occurs when heavy rain or snow melt washes pollutants down stormdrains,

which then travels untreated into our streams, rivers, ponds and lakes.

Stormwater runoff carries dangerous bacteria, nutrients, metals, and chemicals that **affect the cleanliness and health** of the water that we rely on for drinking and recreation.



Runoff is regulated because of the significant impact on water quality, and the federal EPA will soon be imposing requirements on municipal stormwater systems, which may be very costly for towns to implement.

Minimizing the pollutants that run off of your property and into stormdrains may

reduce the need for towns to raise revenue to comply with these new federal rules.

Taking low cost actions now may result in significant future savings for you in the future.

Follow the simple tips inside this flyer to reduce stormwater pollution at your business. Reduce pollution from:

- general cleaning, both indoors and outdoors;
- maintenance and cleaning of dumpsters and disposal areas;
- materials storage;
- spills;
- usage of cleaners and solvents;
- landscaping and irrigation;
- snow and ice removal.

In addition to statewide rules, you may be required to meet additional local stormwater control regulations. Check with your local town officials or conservation committee for more information.



Learn more about preventing stormwater pollution.
www.nepwater.org



Common Pollutants Include: Antifreeze, Detergents, Fertilizers, Gasoline, Household Chemicals, Motor Oil, Paints, Pesticides, Pet Waste, Road Salt, Solvents, Yard Waste