

Solutions to Water Pollution



Guidelines for Parking Lot Management



Unlike pollution from industry or sewage treatment facilities, which is caused by a discrete number of sources, stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere. As rainwater and snowmelt run over streets, lawns, farms and construction sites, pollutants such as fertilizers, soil, pesticides, oil, grease, and pathogens are picked up and carried by the stormwater. The runoff carrying these pollutants is then discharged without treatment into bodies of water used for swimming, fishing and the provision of drinking water.



Why is it important to practice water quality best management practices in a parking lot?

- Storm drains lead directly to streams, rivers, lakes, and creeks.
- When it rains oils from cars, litter, dust and other pollutants from parking lots drain into the storm drains.
- Oil and grease, heavy metals, and toxic chemicals can run into the stream and pollute waterways.
- Heavy metals and toxic chemicals bioaccumulate into fish we eat, causing harm to human health.
- Oil and grease decrease habitat availability to aquatic organisms, and clog the gills of fish.
- Dust from gravel and dirt parking lots harm the human respiratory system and decrease habitat for aquatic wildlife.



How do I properly maintain my dumpsters?

- Dumpsters can be raised onto pads. This technique will decrease the amount of run off coming from the trash inside the dumpster.
- Dumpster lids and doors should be kept closed to prevent rain water from overflowing and causing runoff to flow into storm drains.
- Do not dispose of liquids in the dumpsters.
- Keep dumpsters locked to prevent illegal dumping.



How should I wash off my parking lot?

- DO NOT pressure wash the parking lot.
- Use a vacuum, broom, or other dry mechanical method to clean the parking lot area.
- If you cannot avoid pressure washing, install catch basin inserts to filter out pollutants or divert the water away from impervious surfaces and storm drains.



What can I install to filter pollutants before they reach the storm drain?

- Consider installing sand filters, a two- or three-chambered filtration system proven to effectively remove pollutants.
- Installing regulated buffer strips will allow pollutants to filter out before reaching the storm drains.
- Install catch basins inserts or vault separation devices to remove pollutants before reaching the stream.

