

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?



Stormwater is runoff from rain storms and snow melts. A system of gutters, ditches, and storm drains collects this runoff and discharges it directly into natural waterways.

When water flows over parking lots, streets, and yards, it picks up pollutants like oil, fertilizers, pesticides, and litter. The water and pollutants are carried into the storm drain system where they flow untreated into the rivers, lakes, and streams.



STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

One of the most common types of pollution from businesses is contaminated runoff water, usually from cleaning and maintenance activities. Simple best management practices (BMPs) can prevent stormwater pollution, and prevention is good business. The result is clean water, and shows your customers you care about the community.

Your business can help prevent runoff pollution from making it into our water bodies by following these simple best management practices!

SOLUTION TO BUSINESS STORMWATER POLLUTION

Spills

- ◆ For outdoor spills, use a mop, rag or absorbent material (such as kitty litter) to clean spills.
- ◆ Always keep used absorbent material out of the storm drain. Don't let the absorbent material get saturated. Dispose of it by placing it in a sealed plastic bag and place it in the garbage dumpster.
- ◆ Have a spill kit available for possible spills on your property. To report serious toxic spills, call 911.

Grease and Oil

- ◆ Use drip pans to collect fluids from leaky vehicles.
- ◆ Wipe Spills as soon as possible. Use dry cleanup methods, such as kitty litter absorbents. Properly dispose of used absorbents.
- ◆ Maintain grease traps to prevent overflows and have contents professionally hauled and disposed of; some interceptors may need to be refilled with water. For pumping and hauling companies refer to the yellow pages under "Septic Tanks and Systems"



Cleaning

- ◆ Clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a mop sink, floor drain or proper outside areas, not the parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.
- ◆ Pour wash water into a janitorial or mop sink, not outside in the parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.
- ◆ Routinely sweep paved areas to remove and pick up silt, sand, dirt, debris, and litter for proper disposal as solid waste into a dumpster or trash.
- ◆ Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain; dispose of them properly.



Garbage Dumpsters

- ◆ Never dispose of liquids in the garbage dumpster.
- ◆ Keep dumpster lids closed and the areas around them clean. Do not fill with liquid waste or hose them out. Call your trash hauler to replace any leaky dumpsters.
- ◆ Use garbage bags.



**Recycling in the
Flathead Valley**

