

## How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices, or BMPs, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMPs in this brochure.

## What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-2678.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go on line at: <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>



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**Storm Water Pollution Prevention for Businesses**

Environmental Services Division

Storm Water Hotline  
480-350-2811

# Storm Water Pollution Prevention for Businesses

Storm water pollution prevention is everybody's business. Suggested Best Management Practices (BMPs) you can use are listed below:

## General

- Prevent spills and leaks. Clean up promptly when spills do occur. Clean up without water if possible. Dispose of spill material properly.
- Sweep parking lots and outdoor storage areas regularly. Pick up debris and dispose of properly, do not sweep into gutter or storm drain inlet.
- Maintain landscaping properly. Don't sweep or blow wastes into gutter or drain inlet.
- Wash vehicles and equipment in designated areas.
- Train employees to consider runoff pollution before performing outdoor activities.
- Never dispose of wash water to the storm drain system. Properly dispose of it into the sanitary sewer (sink or toilet).
- Report illegal dumping to the storm drain system by calling (480) 350-2811.

## Storage

- Cover areas where potential pollutants are stored. Keep these materials covered, labeled and stored in appropriate containers.
- Store and dispose of wastes properly.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured. Preferably keep all solid waste containers inside the shop away from water exposure. If it is necessary to keep containers outside, be sure they are covered.

## Recycle

- Recycle batteries, oil and filters, tires, fluids, and wash water.

## Vehicle/Equipment Washing

- Washing vehicles should be an inside job. If you are washing relatively clean vehicles with water only, wash water can be diverted to a large grassy area. Washing vehicles at a commercial wash is preferred (commercial washes recycle water or drain to the sanitary sewer).
- Soapy or oily vehicle wash water must be either collected for offsite disposal or discharged to sanitary sewer.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning with solvents.
- Designate a wash bay where water will be collected onsite.
- Clean-up spill immediately using absorbent materials. Properly dispose of the used absorbent.

## Identifying Procedures/Areas for Maintenance

- Designate areas for maintenance activities.
- Regularly maintain equipment and vehicles.
- Properly design fueling/other maintenance areas.
- Equip drains with shutoff valves in case of spills and regularly inspect these valves.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition, covered and secured.

## Employee and Public Education

- Train employees on pollution prevention practices around service areas and near customer areas.

## Landscaping

- Only irrigate during early morning or late evening to avoid evaporation.
- Aim sprinklers to avoid watering other areas. Use timers to avoid over watering and causing runoff.
- Minimize pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer use.

## Waste Management

- Keep areas around dumpsters free of trash, debris and sediment.
- Keep lids on dumpsters.
- Have leaking containers replaced.

## Miscellaneous Tips

- Mix only the right amount of paint for a job.
- Use less toxic substances.
- Use an aqueous (or "water") cleaning system instead of a solvent-based parts washer.
- Always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) before ordering new products.
- Never discharge any waste to a street, ditch, storm sewer, stream, or the ground.

While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.

