

4E BMPs for Residential Sources

Residential Sources

Focus of Document

This guidance presents BMPs that address the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system from residential sources.

Sources of Pollutants

There are several activities conducted in and around residences that can cause the discharge of pollutants. These activities of concern are:

- ✓ Cleaning and maintenance of automobiles
- ✓ Landscaping and irrigation
- ✓ Weed and pest control
- ✓ Pet waste
- ✓ Draining of pools and spas
- ✓ Home repair and remodeling (including painting)

Pollutants of Concern

Some of the pollutants of concern are:

- ✓ Organic matter
- ✓ Oil and grease
- ✓ Toxic chemicals in cleaning products, paints, and related products
- ✓ Pesticides and herbicides
- ✓ Chlorine and other disinfectants

Best Management Practices

BMPs are common sense, environmentally responsible alternatives and good house-keeping measures that can be implemented with relatively low effort and cost to the residents of the Municipality. Structural controls or physical improvements are not recommended here, although opportunities for such improvements should be utilized when homes are remodeled (see New Development/Redevelopment Control Program in the MURP for types of structural improvements).

Home Automobile Maintenance and Repair

- ✓ Don't wash cars on a driveway where soapy water may flow to the storm drain. Wash cars on a lawn or unpaved surface, and use non-toxic/biodegradable soap. Dispose leftover water into a sink/toilet, and not on the street or in the storm drain.
- ✓ If you change motor oil or antifreeze, dispose through your local recycling program. Do not dump into the storm drain or on the ground.
- ✓ Check vehicle for leaks. Soak up spills and leaks with absorbent rags or kitty litter. If you have a leaking car, place a piece of remnant carpet under the leak to capture it while you fix the leak.
- ✓ Show your support of the Urban Runoff Program by washing your vehicles at commercial car washes that recycle water, and taking your vehicle to repair shops that implement environmentally sound practices (to identify these businesses, check to see if they have green stickers, if this green sticker program has been implemented).

General Home Maintenance

- ✓ Dispose of all waters from cleaning of carpets, upholstery, and other surfaces into the sink or toilet and not the storm drain.
- ✓ If you hire someone to clean carpets and upholstery for you, make sure they empty the cleaning water tanks into a sink or toilet, and not the storm drain.
- ✓ Discharge swimming pool or spa water into the sanitary sewer. Call local wastewater treatment plant before you discharge for guidance. Alternatively, dechlorinate the water and reuse for lawn irrigation.
- ✓ Dispose of pool or spa filter rinsewater and backwash into soil or sanitary sewer, and not into the storm drain.
- ✓ Dispose of water-based paint (but do not throw away unused portions if possible) and paint cleaning water into the sink or toilet, and not the storm drain. Empty (clean) paint cans may be disposed in the trash. Oil-based paint and paint cleaning products require disposal at an appropriate waste disposal facility.
- ✓ Sweep walkways and driveways before washing, and use non-toxic soap.

Landscaping, Irrigation, Yard and Other Waste Disposal

- ✓ Minimize use of chemical fertilizers.

- ✓ Limit fertilizer applications to twice a year (fall and spring).
- ✓ Don't apply fertilizer if rain is forecast.
- ✓ Do not over-water and cause irrigation water to runoff into storm drains. This will carry soil, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides into the storm drain.
- ✓ Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning wastes, and tree trimmings. Compost or dispose appropriately. Do not place these materials on the sidewalk, street or gutter.
- ✓ Do not blow or rake leaves, etc. into the street.
- ✓ Pick up and dispose of pet waste. Do not leave it on the sidewalks or the street from where it could wash into the storm drain.
- ✓ Sweep street, sidewalk and patios before storm events, and dispose of litter into the trash.

Weed and Pest Control

- ✓ Use pesticides and herbicides only if there is an actual problem (not as a preventative measure).
- ✓ Use the least toxic pesticide if alternatives are available. Products labeled with terms such as "caution" and "danger" are generally toxic.
- ✓ Use minimum amounts of pesticides and herbicides necessary for the job.
- ✓ Don't use pesticides or herbicides if rain is expected.
- ✓ Don't mix or prepare pesticides for application near storm drains.

Minor Concrete, Masonry, and Asphalt Repair

- ✓ Place tarps or dropcloths under mixers or in areas to be used for mixing.
- ✓ Hose down mixers, tools, and other equipment in a dirt area where the rinse water can soak into the ground and not run into the creek or storm drain.
- ✓ Clean up surfaces with a broom at the end of day. Don't hose down to clean.
- ✓ Apply asphalt sealant to driveways when no rain is forecast.
- ✓ If you are contracting the work, inform the contractor of these best management practices.