

 ACTIVITY	 POLLUTANT	 DISPOSAL OPTION
General	Trash and debris	Solid waste dumpster
Yard Waste Management	Grass clippings, leaves, branches and debris	Recycle as green waste
Fertilizing, Pest and Weed Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty fertilizer, pesticide & herbicide containers • Fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid waste dumpster • Hazardous waste hauler
Equipment Fueling and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spent Gasoline • Waste Oil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous waste hauler • Hazardous waste hauler
Spill Control Cleanup	Spill absorbent and rags with oil, grease or paint.	Hazardous waste hauler, or solid waste dumpster

Sanitary Sewer vs. Storm Drains

The sanitary sewer system collects and treats wastewater from homes and businesses before discharging flows into local waterways. The storm drain system collects rainwater from urban areas and flows entering this system ARE NOT treated prior to release into local waterways. Consequently, pollutants entering these pipes flow directly into the environment, causing harm to local wildlife and impacting public health.

What is Hazardous Waste?

Hazardous waste is a solid or liquid that because of characteristics; such as, flammability (e.g. solvents), corrosivity (e.g. acids and bases), reactivity (e.g. explosives) or toxicity (e.g. metals and pesticides), can be hazardous to human health or the environment. The lab methods and concentration levels used to determine if a waste is hazardous are specified in Title 22, Division 4.5, of the California Code of Regulations.

LANDSCAPING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Stormwater Management Program

In accordance with State and Federal law, City of West Sacramento's stormwater drainage system is permitted for discharges to our local waterways. To comply with this State permit, and to protect water quality in our local creeks, the City has developed a program to address discharges made to the stormwater drainage system from industrial and commercial businesses. This program includes general outreach as well as compliance inspections at local facilities.

This fact sheet identifies typical activities conducted by landscaping and the associated pollutant discharges. Structural and operational Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent these illicit discharges are also described. This fact sheet can help you prepare for a City inspection as the activities and BMPs listed herein are integral to these inspections. This fact sheet may also be used to train your employees. The City recommends distributing copies of this fact sheet to your employees and/or posting a copy in a prominent place of your facility.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES CHECKLIST

Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) can reduce or eliminate pollutant discharges from Landscaping to the stormwater drainage system.

General

- Store materials and wastes indoors or under a covered and contained area away from exposure to rain.
- Never discharge pesticides, fertilizers, yard waste or other materials to a storm drain or areas exposed to rainfall.
- Do not rinse or wash equipment in areas that discharge to a storm drain.
- Use native plants when possible to help conserve water, filter out pollutants, and reduce the need for toxic pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides.

Equipment Fueling & Maintenance

- Use containers approved by a nationally recognized testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to transport materials or wastes. Keep the containers tightly sealed.
- Always use a funnel and/or spout to prevent spilling or splashing when fueling gas-powered equipment.
- Store gasoline carefully and in closed containers. It travels quickly through soil to groundwater. Establish fueling areas as far away as possible from drinking water sources.
- Dispose of excess or old gasoline as hazardous waste. Do not dispose of gasoline to the sanitary sewer, storm drain, onto the ground, or in the trash.

Employee Training

- Train new and existing employees on the BMPs identified in this fact sheet and your spill response plan on a routine basis. Document all training sessions.
- Make this fact sheet available in company vehicles and at job sites.

Outdoor Materials Storage

- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals indoors.
- Keep lids closed on all outdoor containers.
- Protect erodible stockpiles from stormwater run-on. Cover and install sediment barriers.

Landscape Installation

- Protect stockpiles of materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Control erosion by keeping soils covered with vegetation or a temporary cover material such as mulch.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.
- Divert runoff away from exposed soils or lower its velocity by leveling and terracing impacted areas.
- Divert stormwater flows around active work areas with exposed soil.
- Use temporary check dams to slow runoff allowing coarse soils to drop out prior to discharge.
- Sweep up excess soils.
- Protect storm drains with sandbags, inlet filters or other sediment control measures.
- Minimize tracking of dirt, mud, or concrete onto roadways. Sweep any tracked dirt frequently.
- Implement hydro zoning - group plants by water needs.
- Use high efficiency irrigation systems where possible.

Fertilizing, Pest & Weed Control

- When feasible, perform a soil analysis to determine actual fertilizer needs and application rates.
- Fertilize garden areas with a mulch of leaves, bark, or composted manure or garden waste when possible.
- Apply chemical fertilizer only as needed, when plants can best use it, and when the potential for runoff is low. Calibrate fertilizer spreader.
- Do not apply pesticides if rain or high winds are expected.
- Sweep up any fertilizer spilled on paved areas and re-use later.
- Obtain a license from the state to apply pesticides. Contact the Department of Pesticide Regulation at (916) 445-4038 for more information.
- Become trained in and offer customers less-toxic pest control or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) whenever possible.
- Use pesticides sparingly as instructed on the label. The label on a pesticide container is a legal document.
- Rinse empty pesticide and herbicide containers and use rinse water as product.
- Dispose of rinsed, empty containers in the trash. Dispose of unused pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers as hazardous waste.
- Use drip irrigation and mulch to control weeds. Hand-pull weeds including roots or cut down to ground. Use herbicides containing pelargonic acid or herbicidal soap as a last resort.
- Pesticides or herbicides should not be applied within 100 feet of surface waters such as lakes, ponds, wetlands, and streams.

Spill Control & Cleanup

- If applicable, develop and maintain a spill response plan and ensure that it is in conformance with the requirements of your Business Emergency Response Plan and/or your Hazardous Waste Generator Contingency Plan.
- Maintain an easily accessible and adequate supply of spill clean-up materials.
- Clean leaks, drips, and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
- Clean up spills promptly. Contain spills so that they do not leave the property or enter a storm drain inlet. Dispose of clean-up materials properly.
- Report spills that pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment by calling 911 or (916) 372-3375.

Yard Waste Management

- Do not blow or rake yard waste into storm drains or street.
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings. Chip if necessary, and compost or place in green waste container.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn when mowing when possible.
- Allow leaf drop to become part of the mulch layer in tree, shrub, and ground-cover areas.