



# Water Quality Protection is Serious Business

## Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping for Commercial, Institutional & Industrial Sites

Polluted stormwater is a serious problem in our community. Residents and businesses alike have a role in preventing water pollution. *This job starts in the parking lot* for most businesses. Some businesses are regulated by the Clean Water Act and must adopt *Best Management Practices* (BMPs) that reduce the likelihood of stormwater pollution. For all others this is a voluntary effort. **We depend on everyone to do what they can to improve and protect water quality in our community.**

**Stormwater runoff** is generated from rain or snow melt that does not immediately infiltrate into the ground. The first step to preventing water pollution is to understand the type and amount of pollutants that could contaminate stormwater runoff leaving your business.

### Basic Best Management Practices (BMPs) for ALL Businesses.

Label storm drains.



#### Storm Drains

- Clear litter and debris away from storm drains to ensure nothing but rain enters the storm drain system.
- If construction activity is planned, protect storm drains with sediment control BMPs.
- Stencil parking lot storm drains to show you support water quality protection in our community.

Sweep parking lot.



#### Parking Lots

- Sweep your parking lot, especially after winter to remove excess sand used for ice control.
- Pick-up trash and landscaping and tree debris on a regular basis.
- Maintain company vehicles and repair fluid leaks immediately to prevent them from dripping onto parking areas.

Recycle hazardous waste.



#### Waste Management

- Ensure hazardous material containers are stored under cover, away from rainfall.
- Safely dispose of hazardous materials no longer needed with a hazardous waste recycling service.
- Develop and train employees on spill response plan.
- Locate dumpsters away from storm drains, cover at all times to prevent litter.

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In addition to parking lots, lawn and landscapes are a major source of stormwater pollution. Landscapes can be designed, installed and managed to prevent water pollution, reduce runoff generated from rain, snowmelt and irrigation and slow the flow of runoff that can't be absorbed and infiltrated on your property.

## Basic Best Management Practices (BMPs) for ALL Businesses.

### Go "P" Free.



### Lawn & Landscape

- Test soil before applying lawn fertilizers - most soils in Iowa have plenty of Phosphorus or "P" (shown as middle number on fertilizer bag).
- Sweep up grass clippings and other vegetated waste off parking lot, sidewalks and streets or blow them back into the lawn area.
- If storing mulch and soil on-site keep it under cover.

### Plant native vegetation.



- Use less toxic, organic methods to manage lawn and landscape pests.
- If there are bare spots in your lawn reseed to ensure thick grass and prevent soil from washing away.
- Replace cool season grasses with native turf or plants needing less care, water and fertilization.

### Soil

### Encourage deep roots.



- Aerate lawn area, add a 1/2" to 3/4" layer of compost and reseed every other year to increase soil's ability to absorb and infiltrate rain where it falls.
- Mow high and let grass clippings lie to encourage deep plant roots, healthier soil and turf.

### Point downspouts to lawn or landscape.



### Water

- Retrofit impervious surface areas, such as parking lots, that are directly connected to adjacent surface water (creek, stream, pond or detention basin).
- Point downspouts to vegetated area that infiltrate instead of impervious surfaces, like concrete.
- Plant a healthy vegetated buffer between your parking lot and adjacent surface water.

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