

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Storm Water Pollution Business Guide



Please help keep the City of Rollingwood clean and pollution free by following these guidelines to prevent storm water runoff pollution.

The objective in stormwater protection is that only the runoff from rain goes into streets, ravines, and creeks, everything else is considered an illicit discharge. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific steps to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities in a vehicle maintenance facility. The BMPs address not only direct flow of pollutants to storm drains, but also “threatened discharges” where there is a high probability for stormwater pollution (such as a leaking waste oil drum without secondary containment or any spills or wastes that have been released and are not actively being cleaned up). Illicit discharges are not allowed are subject to a fine of up to \$2,000, plus cleanup fees.

All maintenance facility staff should review this information sheet as a training tool, and make every effort to keep pollutants from going down the storm drain by putting the following BMPs into practice.

Grounds Maintenance

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and garden wash off and pollute streams. In

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addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute excess nutrients and organic matter into streams. An excess of these items leads to “nutrient pollution,” where certain compounds combine to create a fertilizer that contributes to excess algae, the result of which is harmful to flora and fauna in waterways.

To prevent this:

- **Don't overwater. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.**
- **Plant native and drought resistant plants that require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.**
- **Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Use organic mulch, or safer pest control methods whenever possible. When using chemicals, follow the recommended amounts.**
- **Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.**
- **Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.**

Automotive Care

Automotive maintenance facilities are considered to be stormwater “hotspots” where significant loads of hydrocarbons, trace metals and other pollutants can be produced that can affect the quality of stormwater runoff.

Some of the types of waste generated at automobile maintenance facilities and by residents performing their own car maintenance at home include:

- **Solvents (paints & paint thinners)**



- **Antifreeze**
 - **Brake fluid and brake lining**
 - **Batteries**
 - **Motor oils**
 - **Fuels (gasoline, diesel, kerosene)**
 - **Lubricating grease**

Fluid spills and improper disposal of materials result in pollutants, heavy metals and toxic materials that may be picked up by storm water runoff and carried to surrounding roads and ditches. Anything that enters the roads and ditches, including automotive waste, and wash water, flows untreated into our streams and creeks and ends up in Lady Bird Lake.

- **Dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations, including the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center located at:**



2514 Business Center Drive, Austin, TX 78744

For additional information, visit:
<http://austintexas.gov/departments/Austin-resource-recovery#>

Disposing of Leaves and Brush

Residents may not realize the damage done to the natural storm water runoff system when disposing of leaves and cut brush in creek beds and waterways. Always properly dispose of

cut brush rather than dumping it in unmonitored areas.

- **Rollingwood's trash service will collect bundled limbs cut into 4 ft. lengths, and will collect up to 4 bags of leaves and brush during each pick-up.**

For additional information on storm water runoff pollution you can visit the website of the United States Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/nps www.epa.gov/npdes

Building Improvements and Repairs

- **Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials. Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.**
- **Use hazardous products like paints, solvents and cleaning products in the smallest amounts possible. Make sure to store and dispose of them according to label directions.**
- **Utilize hazardous waste disposal programs and facilities to dispose of excess paint or other hazardous waste.**
- **Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.**
- **Purchase and use non-toxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.**

You can make a difference! Keeping our creeks, streams, lakes and rivers clean and safe will be a tough challenge as our community grows. In Rollingwood, we're up for the task, but we can't do it without everyone's help. The choices we make today will impact future generations. As a community, we are responsible for maintaining the quality of our waterways.

Thank you for doing your part to preserve the natural storm water runoff system in Rollingwood!

This information provided by:



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More information can be obtained at
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
www.tceq.state.tx.us
or visit the City of Rollingwood website at:
www.cityofrollingwood.com

