

Soap - even biodegradable soap is toxic to fish and other aquatic species.

Remember: Only rain down the drain.

## WHAT IS STORMWATER

and HOW DOES IT AFFECT MY BUSINESS?

### ABOUT NPDES The NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM



When it rains, stormwater can pick up pollutants and sediments from surfaces such as parking lots, roofs, streets, sidewalks and construction sites. These pollutants and sediment can flow directly to streams, lakes and Puget Sound. Stormwater regulations require businesses to take steps to make sure that the stormwater is not polluted when it enters the City's drainage system. Businesses can accomplish this by implementing "source control" measures that not only prevent pollution, but can prevent expensive treatment and maintenance as well.

To prevent pollution that can degrade surface waters and make them unsafe for drinking,

fishing, swimming, and other activities, the United States Clean Water Act authorizes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. The permit program controls water pollution by regulating what is discharged into our waters. The City of Seattle's NPDES permit program is administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Since its introduction in 1972, the NPDES permit program has been responsible for significant improvements to our Nation's water quality.

## Requirements for All Businesses

All Seattle businesses are required to implement the following **best management practices (BMPs)**.

### Maintain Drainage Systems

Maintain drainage facilities such as catch basins, oil/water separators, and stormwater vaults on a regular basis to prevent failure and flooding. Without adequate maintenance, sediment and other debris quickly clog drains, reducing their ability to regulate and treat stormwater runoff or even drain water properly, resulting in flooding. Catch basins need to be cleaned when there is sediment within 18" of the bottom of the lowest pipe entering or exiting the structure (or when they are 60% or more full).



### Identify and Eliminate Illicit Connections to Storm Drains

Toilets, sinks, appliances, showers, shop floors and industrial process drains should be connected to the sewer system, not the storm drain system. If connected to the storm system, pollutants such as sewage, chemicals, soaps, toxins, heavy metals, high temperature water, nutrients and pathogens could enter our nearby waterways. Only clean rain water should enter the storm drains.



### Maintain Streets, Driveways, Parking Lots and Sidewalks

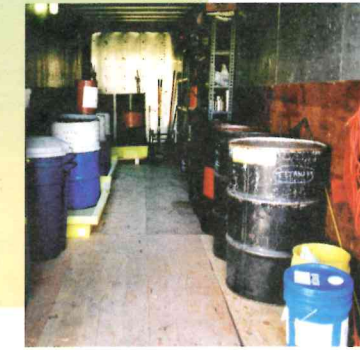
Regularly sweeping and cleaning paved areas can help keep pollutants from entering our storm system. Examples of pollutants are oil from automobiles, nutrients, litter, leaf debris, excess sediment, and de-icing products. Inspecting and cleaning gutters, drains and catch basins is also important.

## REQUIREMENTS

for ALL BUSINESSES

### Properly Dispose of Grease and Used Oil

Liquids such as restaurant grease and used oil should be stored in leak proof containers with tight fitting lids to avoid contact with stormwater. Dangerous waste requires secondary containment where 110% of the volume of the largest tank or 10% of the total volume of liquids can be contained, whichever is greatest.



### Properly Store Materials

Whenever possible, store materials inside. Materials stored outside should be covered and contained to ensure they don't come into contact with stormwater and leach pollutants into the stormdrain. In addition, keep dumpsters closed and check for and fix leaks.

### Prevent and Clean Up Spills

All businesses that manufacture, store, use or transport liquids have the potential to spill and are required to:

- Create and follow a spill prevention and clean up plan
- Keep a spill kit with response equipment anywhere spills may occur
- Train employees in how to prevent and respond to spills
- Report spills at 206-386-1800.



Creating a spill kit and plan is the most cost-effective way to prevent and deal with a potential spill. Clean ups can cost thousands of dollars. Even a small spill can be costly to clean up unless you act fast to block stormdrains. Please see page 3 for information about FREE spill kits.

### Provide Oversight and Training for Staff

Employees who understand how and why to implement best management practices will respond quickly and appropriately when spills or other problems occur. Train your staff and avoid unnecessary costs.



### Don't know which BMPs apply to your business?

Call Resource Venture, 206-343-8505, visit [www.resourceventure.org](http://www.resourceventure.org), or call ECOSS, 206-767-0432 for more information or to schedule a technical assistance visit.

NPDES