



Stormwater Pollution Best Management Practices

Landscape Maintenance Businesses

Pesticides, fertilizers, yard waste, and sediments associated with commercial landscape maintenance often make their way into the storm drain system and do not get treated before reaching local streams and Puget Sound. This pollutes our drinking water and contaminates local waterways, making them unsafe for people and wildlife. Follow these best management practices to prevent pollution, protect public health and remain in compliance with local regulations.



Fertilizer, Herbicide and Pesticide Use:

- Adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) program that utilizes herbicides and pesticides as a last resort.
- Follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the use, storage, and disposal of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, as well as training of applicators and pest control advisors.
- Follow manufacturers' recommendations and label directions.
- Do not apply any chemicals directly to surface waters, unless the application is approved and permitted by the state.
- Employ techniques to minimize off-target application (e.g. spray drift) of product, including consideration of alternative application techniques.
- Calibrate spreaders and applicators to avoid excessive application.
- Periodically test soils for determining proper fertilizer use.
- Sweep pavement and sidewalk if product is spilled on these surfaces before applying irrigation water.
- Use slow release fertilizers whenever possible to minimize leaching.
- Purchase only the amount of product that you can reasonably use in a given time period.
- For more information regarding fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, call the Washington State Department of Agriculture at 1-877-301-4555.
- When conducting mechanical or manual weed control, avoid loosening the soil, which could lead to erosion.
- Use soil amendments such as composted organic material as an effective measure to reduce the need for herbicide use.

Recycling Yard Waste:

- Mow grass higher and leave clippings on lawn if possible.
- Encourage property owners to compost yard waste on site.
- If yard waste is removed from site, dispose of at an approved compost site.
- Never leave grass clippings or yard waste in the street where it can be washed into the storm drain system.

Water Conservation and Management:

- Do not overwater plants or turf.
- Minimize irrigation runoff by adjusting irrigation schedules.
- Maintain irrigation systems so that they do not water impervious areas such as driveways and sidewalks.
- Check system regularly for leaks.

Use of Native Vegetation:

- Where feasible, retain and/or plant native vegetation, which requires less water and maintenance than non-native plants.
- When planting or replanting consider using drought tolerant flowers, trees, shrubs, and groundcovers.
- Consider alternative landscaping techniques such as naturescaping and xeriscaping.
- Bunch plants with similar needs together to maximize water efficiency.

Hazardous Material Storage and Disposal:

- Implement storage requirements for pesticide products with guidance from the Washington State Department of Agriculture.
- Provide secondary containment for chemical storage.
- Dispose of empty containers according to the instructions on the container label.
- Triple rinse containers and use rinse water as product.

For additional water resources information:

City of Tumwater Water Resources
(360) 754-4140 or visit our website

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us