

Commercial:

A Practical Guide to Preventing Storm Water Pollution



Be Part of the Solution...
...Prevent Storm Water Pollution!

This storm water protection guide is provided to help you comply with the City of Hollister storm water requirements. It outlines several ways business owners, managers, and employees can help keep storm water clean.

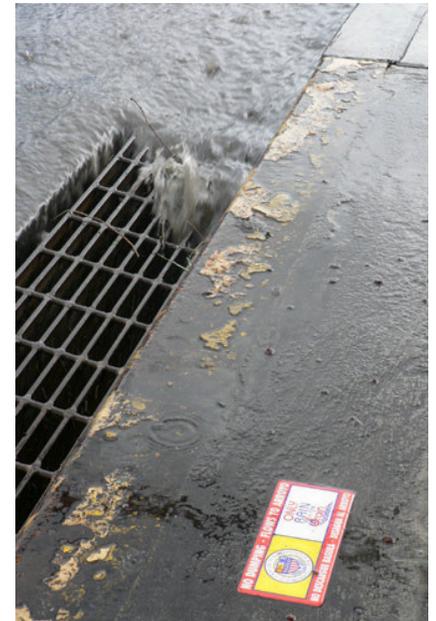
What is Storm Water?

Storm water is a term used to describe water that originates during precipitation (rain or snow) events. Storm water that does not soak into the ground becomes surface runoff, which either flows into surface waterways or is channeled into storm drains.

Sanitary Sewer System vs. Storm Drain System

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm drain system does NOT connect to a treatment plant. The storm drain system carries storm water that runs off from yards, parking lots, and streets directly to creeks, streams, and rivers. Because the storm drain system has no filters, pollution picked up along the way flows into water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Dirt, oil, debris (plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, cigarette butts, etc.) and chemicals that collect on impervious surfaces can be washed into the storm drain and pollute our water bodies. We must ensure that we work together to keep our water potable and free of pollutants.



The Effects of Pollution

Storm water that has been polluted by debris, oil, or dirt can have very serious effects on plants, animals and, ultimately, people.

- Water bodies may become cloudy making it difficult and, at times, impossible for aquatic plants to grow thus, destroying this underwater ecosystem.
- Excess nutrients can cause an excess algae growth. As it dies, algae sink to the bottom, while its decomposition removes oxygen from the water making it difficult for aquatic plants or animals to survive.
- Bacteria and other pathogens may wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- Chemicals and auto fluids can poison animals and plants. Consuming contaminated foods can cause severe health hazards including death.

- Polluted storm water can affect our drinking water causing health risks. Additionally, treating polluted water can be a costly process.

Store, Handle and Dispose All Waste Properly

All grease, oil and any other waste fluids should be disposed of properly. Appropriate waste disposal is a critical step in the elimination of storm water pollution. When grease is disposed in the drain, it can collect and clog sewer lines causing sewage spills into the storm drain system. No waste fluid should be disposed down the drain. To help prevent harmful waste from harming our environment:

- Always label, handle, and store chemicals properly with adequate secondary containment and overhead coverage.
- Prevent any dripping of chemicals or overflowing when transferring and emptying containers.
- Recycle used oil, paint, and other harmful chemicals. (Our local garbage disposal services provide information on properly discarding harmful chemicals).
- Whenever possible, use non-toxic chemicals and avoid the use of solvents.
- There are many earth friendly cleaning chemicals. Use these whenever possible!



Never pour any waste fluids directly into the sanitary sewer or storm drain systems!

Seal and Maintain Trash/Recycling Containers

Waste (trash, food, packaging, chemicals, etc.) should be placed in sealed bags prior to disposing in dumpsters or trash bins. Businesses should also:

- Keep lids on trash, recycling cans and other outdoor containers.
- Inspect all outdoor trash and recycling containers before it rains to make sure the lids fit securely.

- Regularly inspect dumpsters and trash bins for leaks and for trash pileup around them.
- Minimize the amount of liquids disposed in your dumpsters and trash bins.

Control Outdoor Washing Activities

Wash all equipment indoors to ensure the wastewater is collected via floor drains or sinks. Wastewater from other outdoor activities **MUST BE CONTAINED**, recaptured, and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system. Examples of this include high pressure washing of storage or loading/unloading areas, and hose down of parking lots or sidewalks.

Sweep Sidewalk and Parking Lots

The parking lots and sidewalks of your business should be swept regularly to control litter and debris. Do not wash down these areas with a hose or pressure washer unless the water is collected and discharged into the sanitary sewer.

Oversee All Cleaning Service Contractors

Make sure that any contractors you hire to clean mats, hood vents, etc., don't wash down materials and equipment outside unless all their water is collected and discharged into the sanitary sewer.

- Prohibit contractors from pouring anything down the storm drain.
- Require cleaning of floor mats, exhaust filters, garbage cans, carts, or tray racks in designated area not draining into the storm drain system.
- Water that contains soap, bleach or disinfectants in it should be discharged to a mop sink or to the sanitary sewer.
- Prevent any waste from dripping or overflowing when transferring and emptying containers. Container lids should fit securely to prevent access from vandals and animals.

Prevent Spills

It's always best to prevent spills, but be prepared for them.

- Keep spill containment kits on hand in case of a spill.
- Store kits in convenient locations, such as near dumpsters and unloading areas.
- Clean up spills using rags or absorbents and dispose in the trash. Do not hose spills into the storm drain.
- Teach employees the proper use of spill clean-up materials.
- Report any spills that discharge to a storm drain to the We Tip Hotline at (800) 78-CRIME.





Train and Educate Employees

Employees are more likely to respond to training when they understand the effect their daily activities have on water quality.

- Include water quality training in employee orientation and reviews.
- Hold staff meetings to discuss the importance of keeping our water clean.
- Post this guide and other Best Management Practices (BMP) where employees and customers can see them.
- Have your employees read and review this guide, then sign and date a training log.

Conduct Routine Inspections

Routine inspections help ensure your automotive business complies with storm water requirements.

- Inspect inside and outside areas of your business.
- Make sure that all pipes inside your business are connected to the sewer system.
- Locate and mark storm drain openings on a map, and post it in a common work area.
- Review your current practices and look for areas where you can improve.
- Record any changes that you make to help prevent storm water pollution.

City of Hollister Storm Water Management Program



Be Part of the Solution...
...Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Help BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO PREVENT STORM WATER POLLUTION at your business. The guidelines in this brochure are simple and inexpensive to follow and definitely cost less than cleaning and disposing of spills! Additionally, clean and well-managed businesses are attractive to customers and provide a good working environment for employees.

Thank you for being environmentally responsible and for keeping the City of Hollister clean! If you have any questions, please contact the City of Hollister's Engineering Department at (831) 636-4340.