

BMPs for Landscaping Companies

Your business can reduce pollution, costs and environmental liability by using these tips:

Problems:

Landscaping and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to storm water pollution. Soils, mulch, yard wastes, over-watering, and garden chemicals become part of the pollution that winds its way through streets and storm drains before entering our waterways.

Poorly functioning sprinklers and overwatering, for example, wastes water and increases the number of pollutants flowing into storm drains. Pollution in stormwater contaminates our local streams, harbors, & Chesapeake Bay

Storm water pollution results in closures of beaches and shell-fishing areas, harms aquatic life, causes algal blooms, and increases the risk of land flooding by clogging catch basins and storm sewers.

Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that may be washed off lawns and landscaped areas not only provide nutrients to lawns and kill garden invaders and weeds, they also harm beneficial insects, poison fish, and contaminate water bodies.

Leave out if included in graphic?: *Leaves, grass clippings, and tree trimmings that are swept or blown into the street or catch basins are also water polluters. These wastes clog catch basins, increasing the risk of flooding. As these "green wastes" decompose, they use up oxygen in water that fish and other aquatic life need to survive*

Solutions: (BMPs)

How Businesses Can Help

Yard Waste

Recycle leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste (or bag for pick up – all municipalities?)

Blow, sweep, rake or hose yard waste AWAY from roads, parking lots, sidewalks and storm drains and back onto landscaped areas

Never blow yard waste into the street or storm drains

Avoid mowing where the discharge chute faces toward the road or drainage ditches. Instead, mow toward the center of the lawn.

Repair leaking equipment. Use oil absorber to collect the oil and dispose of in the trash. Recycle or dispose of fluids properly.

Fertilizers, Herbicides & Pesticides

Use natural and non-toxic alternatives whenever possible

Avoid applying near curbs and driveways and never before a rain event.

Use pesticides sparingly and according to instructions on the label.

Do not use pesticides or fertilizer within 10 feet of lakes, streams, ponds, drainage

Sweep or soak up spills on parking lots, driveways or sidewalks

If you must use chemical fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides: spot apply, rather than blanketing entire areas

Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing under tarps or secured plastic sheeting (fertilizers, pesticides, mulch and soil)

Left over pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides contaminate landfills and should be disposed of through your local Hazardous Waste Facility

Use water wisely

Adjust sprinkler heads so they water lawn and plants. Not sidewalks or pavement

Use native or drought tolerant plants (will also reduce need for fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides)

Graphic to include:

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? In Hampton Roads, 100% of stormwater flows directly into our creeks, lakes and Chesapeake Bay

Yard waste dumped into stormdrains carries garden chemicals into waterways, releases harmful pollutants and creates algae blooms which absorb oxygen fish need to survive. Disposing of yard waste into stormdrains causes serious ecological problems – and is PROHIBITED BY LAW.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

Who to Contact: For any questions on disposal of waste, contact:

Askhrgreen website

Other:

Take business vehicles to a car wash. If that isn't possible, use non-phosphate, biodegradable detergents and wash vehicles on a lawn

Prevent erosion – avoid excavating or grading during wet weather.