

BUSINESS STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Best Management Practices: Landscapers

Rain that falls on streets and parking lots, also known as stormwater, can carry oils, detergents, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals from the ground and into storm drains that lead straight to lakes, streams, or Puget Sound. This can pose health and safety risks to our community and environment.

As a landscaping business, it's your duty to prevent soil, debris and spills from polluting our waters.

Take action to prevent pollution at its source to keep our waters safe and clean!



Learn more about pollution prevention requirements in [Seattle's Stormwater Code](#).

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Landscaping Businesses



- ✓ **Grading:** Before starting work, protect storm drains around the job site using filter socks, wattles, or absorbent booms. Avoid tracking mud and dirt onto the street when using grading and excavation machinery.
- ✓ **Landscaping:** Use mulch or other erosion control measures when soils or erodible materials are exposed for more than 1 week during the dry season (May 1 to September 30) or 2 days during the rainy season (October 1 to April 30). (Manual Volume 4, BMP 22)
- ✓ **Irrigation:** Avoid overwatering, which can cause soil erosion and send sediment and chemicals to drains and waterways. (BMP 51/Ecology BMP S450)
- ✓ **Chemicals:** If herbicides and/or fertilizers are used, apply according to manufacturer's instructions and local regulations. Only use the amount of fertilizer necessary to maintain vegetation. (BMP 55/Ecology BMP S443)
- ✓ **Cleanup:** Sweep dry surfaces. Do not discard/stockpile collected vegetation or soil in or near catch basins and other drainage system features, waterways, receiving waters, or public spaces. Do not blow soil or vegetation into those areas either. (BMP 22)

See the [next page](#) for general BMPs to prevent stormwater pollution. ►



General Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are processes that businesses, individuals and responsible parties in Seattle should implement to prevent pollutants from contaminating stormwater runoff and entering receiving waters. General BMPs are required for all real property, and additional BMPs are recommended for specific pollution generating activities.



Find and Protect Onsite Storm Drains

Find where water will flow from your work site and protect your storm drains to prevent pollutants from entering local waterways. Best practice is to move activities that could release oils, chemicals, detergents, or other pollutants away from locations that could lead to a storm drain, and properly contain pollutants.



Train Employees

Ensure your staff are properly trained in the following key practices:

- How to safely store and use chemicals and hazardous materials so they do not pollute the ground, drains, or waterways
- What can be washed and where so that soap, soil, oil, and other chemicals do not enter storm drains
- How to create a spill plan and clean all spills promptly



Order a
FREE
spill kit

Prevent and Clean Up Spills

Create and follow your spill prevention and clean-up plan. A spill can be a one-time event, a continuous leak, or frequent small spills. All types must be addressed.

If you have a spill, call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 386-1800.



Dispose of Fluids and Wastes

Responsible parties must properly dispose of solid and liquid waste, as well as contaminated stormwater and street waste. Depending on the type of waste, there are a few options for disposal:

1. Permitted centralized waste treatment facilities
2. Municipal solid waste and recycling facilities
3. Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities

CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL LIST OF POLLUTION PREVENTION BMPs

Language Support

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

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통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000번으로 전화해 주십시오.

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