

# Stormwater & Business

Help prevent stormwater pollution while working

Flowing rain, melting snow and even water generated from your business is classified as stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff picks up excess fertilizer and pesticides, oil, sand, leaves, grass clippings, and many other pollutants.

All businesses have the potential to contribute to stormwater pollution. Pollutants in stormwater can reach our freshwater systems then cause human and environmental problems. Follow these tips to keep our waters safe while at work:

## 1 If its not rain, it does not belong in the drain.

Do not put any substances down the storm drain system. Have disposal methods posted where relevant.

## 2 Contain, don't drain.

If items are left outside, cover them. It protects our freshwater and prevents loss of materials.

## 3 Beware of your garbage.

Rain and snowmelt carry trash and "dumpster slurry", which is full of harmful nutrients and bacteria, right into our freshwater.

The type of work you do can influence how you can protect our waters while at work. Learn more about different types of work below:

### Do you work with yards?



- Try to avoid spraying pesticides and fertilizers onto driveways or sidewalks.
- Check local rules when getting rid of leaves and grass clippings to ensure correct disposal.

### Do you work with food?



- Know how to dispose of cooking oils and animal fats, they can be just as bad as petroleum oil.
- Make sure dumpsters are closed and inspected regularly for leaks. This prevents bacteria from food from entering our waterways.

### Do you work with chemicals?



- Know when you can throw out chemicals and when they need to be sent to a hazardous waste recycling facility.
- Have a plan for spills that are posted for employees to see. Have a spill kit available readily available and labeled.

### Do you work with animals?



- Never leave animal waste outside and uncovered, especially before a storm or snow event. Animal waste contains dangerous bacteria and diseases.
- When disposing of waste, make sure it is bagged to provide an extra layer of protection from pollution.

This information was brought to you by Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. Get more information online at [www.respectourwaters.org](http://www.respectourwaters.org)



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