Stormwater Quality *and how you can help*

MESA COUNTY

The storm drainage system is designed to collect stormwater — rain and snowmelt — and release it directly to the Colorado River, untreated. Pollutants are transported in stormwater as rain and snowmelt travel across surfaces such as lawns, roads and parking lots, picking up substances such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil and sediments before entering the Colorado River. Contaminants that enter the creek degrade the quality of our drinking water source and the quality of fish and wildlife habitats. Therefore, care must be taken to ensure that stormwater runoff does not jeopardize the quality of the Colorado River. Implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and good housekeeping practices will help ensure a safe work environment and a cleaner water source for years to come.

For Businesses:

Cleaning

- Use non-toxic substitutes for chemicals whenever possible.
- Control litter by sweeping and picking up trash regularly.
- Sweep shop floors, materials processing and storage areas, access roads, parking lots and sidewalks. Do not wash down with a hose.
- Properly contain and dispose of wash water, sweepings and sediments.

Material Storage

- Prevent spills from entering storm drains and discharge points.
- Keep outdoor storage containers in good condition.
- Use secondary containment measures for material and waste storage areas.

Spills

- Clean up spills immediately to minimize safety hazards and prevent spills from reaching a storm drain inlet.
- Use absorbent materials to clean small spills rather than hosing down the area. Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.

Landscape

- Whenever possible, use chemical alternatives, or low-toxic chemicals.
- Use landscaping pesticides and fertilizers only as needed.
- Avoid over-watering to prevent excess runoff.

For Auto Shops:

Material Storage

- Store all containers under cover to protect from rain and snow.
- Use secondary containment devices or construct dikes/curbs to contain any possible leaks.
- Close and secure any opened containers.

Spills

- Keep a spill kit appropriate for the materials you use handy and stocked, ready for use.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Use absorbent material or containment berms for liquid spills.
- Always use dry methods to clean spills (sweeping) and never hose down the area.

Cleaners And Solvents

- Read labels carefully and follow directions.
- Dispose of unused portions properly, and follow appropriate cleanup practices.
- Collect wastes for recycling or proper disposal.
- Whenever possible, purchase water based cleaning products. Look for products labeled “non-toxic” and “readily biodegradable.”

Trash

- Prevent polluted runoff by covering all dumpsters and replace leaky ones.
- Keep the area around the dumpsters free of trash.
- Ensure trash is properly bagged before placing it in the dumpster.

For Restaurants:

Good Housekeeping Practices

- Avoid spilling onto floors or other surfaces through good housekeeping.
- Clean up spills immediately to minimize safety hazards and prevent spills from reaching a storm drain inlet.
- Use absorbent materials to clean small spills rather than hosing down the area. Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.

Cleaning

- Keep outside areas (dumpsters, parking lots, etc.) free of trash and debris, and regularly clean them to prevent pollutant buildup.
- Control litter by sweeping and picking up trash on a regular basis.
- Sweep up outside areas rather than washing them down.
- Do not dump mop water or wash floor mats or kitchen equipment outside. Pour mop water and wash water into the mop sink or floor drains. Take floor mats to a local car wash for cleaning.
- Whenever possible, purchase water based cleaning products. Look for products labeled “nontoxic,” “non-petroleum based,” “ammonia-free,” “phosphate-free,” “dye and perfume-free,” or “readily biodegradable.”

Oil And Grease

- Regularly inspect and clean out grease traps/interceptors.
- Always use proper oil and grease recycling receptacles. Never dump oil and grease wastes into storm drains or onto parking lots.
- Use care to avoid spills when taking used oil to the grease receptacle.

For Landscaping Businesses:

Material Storage

- Store all containers holding powder and liquid materials under cover to protect from rain and snow.
- Use secondary containment devices or construct dikes/curbs to contain any possible leaks.
- Keep containers closed and secure.
- Store soil and mulch piles in contained areas where they cannot be washed into the storm drainage system. When these materials are transported for use on site, store them on the lot and out of the street where they won’t be washed into the street and storm drain system with overspray from irrigation or stormwater.

Fertilizers, Herbicides And Pesticides

- Whenever possible, use chemical alternatives, or low-toxic chemicals.
- Follow manufacturer’s recommendations for safe use and disposal.
- Use the smallest amount necessary.
- Apply at optimal times for the specific application.

Equipment Maintenance

- Inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks regularly. Fix problems as soon as possible.
- When draining fluids, use a drip pan and/or funnel to prevent any spills.
- Keep a cleanup kit of safety equipment and absorbent material, such as kitty litter or sand for spills.
- Never hose down streets or sidewalks to clean. Use a broom and properly dispose of sweepings.

Cleaners And Solvents

- Read labels carefully and follow directions.
- Dispose of unused portions properly.
- Follow good cleanup practices.
- Whenever possible, purchase water based cleaning products. Look for products labeled “nontoxic,” “non-petroleum based,” “ammonia-free,” “phosphate-free,” and/or “readily biodegradable.”

For Building and Remodeling:

Sediment is the biggest pollutant of concern during construction due to the removal of soil cover. Heavy metals and nutrients attach to soil particles that, if allowed to reach the storm drain, degrade water quality. Sediment can also smother fish and active spawning areas, lead to dredging costs from excess material and contribute to flooding problems as a result of decreased channel capacity. In addition to sediment, there are many chemicals of concern including paint, mortar and trash.

Use Soil Erosion And Sediment Control Practices:

- Minimize removal of existing vegetation.
- Divert runoff around disturbed soils.
- Reduce traffic on disturbed soils.
- Request contractors park on paved areas, whenever possible.
- Revegetate as soon as possible using native seed mix, mulch and tackifier.
- Frequently sweep streets and sidewalks of soil back onto the site.
- Construct a gravel stabilized site access.
- Sweep paved surfaces, rather than hosing down or using blowers.
- Use sediment control devices including silt fence, inlet protection, sediment basins, diversion ditches, and swales to minimize soil that leaves the site.

Maintain Good Housekeeping Practices While Work Is Underway:

- Properly store and dispose of materials such as paints and solvents.
- Properly contain and dispose of wash water, sweepings and sediments.
- Use non-toxic substitutes for chemicals when possible.
- Inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks regularly and fix problems as soon as possible.
- Keep a cleanup kit of safety equipment and absorbent material, such as kitty litter or sand, in case a spill does occur. Never hose down an area to clean up after a spill.
- Control litter by sweeping and picking up trash on a regular basis.
- Cover dumpsters and replace leaking ones