

How Your Business Can Prevent Stormwater Pollution



Forrest County Planning Department

641 N. Main St.

Hattiesburg, MS 39401

601-584-6162 or 601-583-7570

YOU CAN PREVENT WATER POLLUTION!

Storm drains flow directly into creeks and streams without any treatment. Because of this direct connection, water and other wastes that flow into a storm drain can easily cause pollution. It is the responsibility of your business to ensure that only rainwater enters the storm drains near your operation. If wastes and wash waters from your business practices enter the storm drain system, you may have to pay for cleanup costs and fines, have permits revoked, or other penalties as outlined in the stormwater ordinance.

The pollution prevention practices outlined in this booklet will help your business stay in compliance with laws designed to protect stormwater and the environment. The Pollution Prevention Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff make it easy for businesses to understand the water pollution regulations that affect them.



SEWER OR STORM DRAIN?

In order to choose the most appropriate practice, it is important to determine whether a drain is a storm drain or a sanitary sewer drain. In general, drains inside the building are connected to the sanitary sewer, and outside drains (except for capped sanitary sewer “cleanouts”) are connected to the storm drain system. Sanitary sewer cleanouts are usually 6 inches in diameter or smaller, and storm drain inlets are larger, but there are exceptions. If your business has floor drains, contact your local sanitary sewer treatment agency for requirements for discharging to the sanitary sewer.

SIX GENERAL POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

1. Keep your business neat and clean – it saves time and money and prevents pollution
2. Protect your storm drain inlets from pollution of any kind. Remember, only rain down the storm drain
3. Be prepared! Keep spill cleanup materials easily accessible
4. Use dry methods to clean up spills whenever possible. Never wash spills down the storm drain
5. Train staff regularly on these practices.
6. Perform work indoors or under cover whenever possible to avoid exposure to rainfall, runoff, and wind



MATERIAL STORAGE

IF YOU MUST STORE MATERIALS OUTSIDE MAKE SURE TO DO THE FOLLOWING

1. Protect materials from rain and runoff.
2. Place primary containers of liquids within secondary containment.
3. Do not place near storm drain inlets.
4. Keep spill cleanup materials in easily accessible areas.
5. Check with local municipality for compliance with the fire and building codes

OUTDOOR WASTE STORAGE AND RECYCLING

WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

1. Don't dispose of any liquids or solids in storm drain. Recycle whenever possible.
2. Divide wastes by type and store separately in sealed containers.
3. Use a big enough dumpster so you can keep the lids closed.
4. Replace leaking dumpsters.
5. Schedule regular pickups



LITTER

Litter and trash are bad for business and harm the health of creeks and streams in Forrest County.

- Pick up litter daily. Maintain sidewalks and parking lots in front of your business so that they are free of litter and dirt. Don't wash into the street or storm drain.

LANDSCAPING AND SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

- Know whether your landscaping is specifically designed to minimize and treat stormwater runoff, and if it is, make sure it is maintained as designed.
- Consider utilizing less toxic applications.
- Do not overwater – maintain sprinklers to avoid pavement watering.
- Clean up fallen leaves and remove prunings for composting or disposal with green wastes. Don't dispose of these materials in the street, or a storm drain



PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

STORMWATER PROCEDURES

- If you disturb between one and five acres of land, property owners are responsible to obtain a local Stormwater Permit and submit a Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPP).
- For developments greater than five acres, property owners must acquire a permit from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Forrest County Board of Supervisors

601-545-6000

Forrest County Emergency Management District

601-544-5911

Forrest County Tax Assessor

601-545-6130

Forrest County Chancery Clerk

601-545-6013

Forrest County Tax Collector

601-582-8228

Forrest County Health Department

601-583-0291