

***Safe Environmental Habits and
Methods for:***

Landscapers

Homeowners

Gardeners

Landscaping and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to water pollution. Soils, yard wastes, over watering and garden chemicals become part of the urban runoff mix that winds its way through streets, gutters and storm drains before entering lakes, rivers, streams, etc. Urban runoff pollution contaminates water and harms aquatic life!

The City of Aiken wants to inform landscaping businesses and residents to help promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) used on landscaping sites to keep pollution out of our storm drains and to protect our waterways.

Included in this brochure is valuable information on important BMPs. We hope you find it useful and educate others on how to create an efficient and environmentally safe landscaping site.



City of Aiken



STORMWATER Best Management Practices (BMPs)

For more information about ways to prevent stormwater pollution, please visit our website:
www.cityofaikensc.gov/stormwater

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**Only Rain
Down the
Storm Drain!**

City of Aiken

***Stormwater Best Management
Practices (BMPs)***



Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control



803-642-7610



Stormwater Pollution

PROBLEMS

How can landscaping and garden maintenance activities be a problem or major contributor to stormwater pollution? Soils, yard wastes, and garden chemicals become part of the pollution that finds its way through streets and storm drains before entering our waterways.



Poorly functioning sprinklers and over-watering, for example, wastes water and increases the number of pollutants flowing into storm drains.

Chemical pollution in stormwater contaminates our local streams, lakes and ponds. Stormwater pollution harms aquatic life, causes algal blooms in ponds which can clog the gills of fish, reduce light penetration and make it difficult for plants and fish to survive.

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.

Leaves, grass clippings, and tree trimmings that are swept or blown into the street or catch basins are also water polluters. These wastes increases silt in ponds and clog catch basins, increasing the risk of flooding.

SOLUTIONS

General Landscaping Tips:

- ◆ Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- ◆ Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- ◆ Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual, perennial grasses, and dense ground covering plants. These will shield and bind the soil.
- ◆ Plant native vegetation to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers and pesticides applied to the landscape.
- ◆ Never apply pesticides or fertilizers when rain is predicted within the next 48 hours.

Garden & Lawn Maintenance:

- ◆ Do not rake or blow leaves, clippings or pruning waste into the street, gutter or storm drain. Instead, dispose of green waste by composting, hauling it to a permitted landfill, or recycling it.
- ◆ Adjust your sprinkler heads so they water your lawn and plants and not sidewalks or pavement.
- ◆ Do not water when it rains since it wastes water and may create additional runoff from your property.
- ◆ Consider recycling your green waste and adding “nature’s own fertilizer” to your lawn or garden.
- ◆ Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers. Read labels and use only as directed. Do not over-fertilize and do not fertilize near streams or other water bodies. Apply to spots as needed, rather than blanking an entire area.



- ◆ Store pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals in a dry covered area to prevent exposure that may result in the deterioration of containers and packaging.
- ◆ Rinse empty pesticide containers and re-use rinse water as you would use the product. Do not dump rinse water down storm drains or sewers. Dispose of empty containers in the trash.
- ◆ When available, use non-toxic alternatives to traditional pesticides, and use pesticides specifically designed to control the pest you are targeting.
- ◆ If fertilizer is spilled, sweep up the spill before irrigating. If the spill is liquid, apply an absorbent material such as cat litter, and then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash.
- ◆ Use a broom to sweep debris off hard surfaces - such as driveways and streets and around storm drains. Using a hose not only wastes water, but it will wash more pollutants into the drain.
- ◆ **Dumping toxics into the street, gutter or storm drain is illegal!!!**

