

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Clean Water: Our Only Choice

Shelby County has two drainage systems – the sewers and the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rain-water away from streets, homes, and businesses. Because the system contains no filters, it also serves the unintended function of carrying urban pollution straight into our streams and the Mississippi River.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent pollution from entering our streams from “storm water” or “urban runoff”.

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates storm water pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automobile fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to the Mississippi River through the storm drain system that takes water and debris straight from the streets to our streams. Each day tremendous amounts of polluted urban runoff enters our streams untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our creeks and river and tons of trash along their banks.

Urban runoff contaminates our streams and river, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging our storm drains and catch basins. Overall, storm water pollution costs us millions of dollars per year.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner streams and river, and a cleaner Shelby County. For storm water information, call Chris Masin, Storm Water Manager 222-7705.

For more information please visit our website at:
<http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov>
<http://www.cityofmemphis.org>

Hazardous Spill Response

Shelby County Fire Dept. 911 or (901) 222-8020
City of Memphis Fire Dept. (901) 458-3311

Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Shelby County (901) 222-7770
City of Memphis (901) 576-6868

To Report Illegal Dumping

Shelby County (901) 222-2300
City of Memphis (901) 576-4349

To Report a Drainage Problem

Shelby County (901) 222-2300
City of Memphis (901) 636-6933

Storm Water Program Information

Shelby County (901) 222-7705
City of Memphis (901) 576-4349

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

- Automotive Maintenance & Car Care**
- Detention Pond Maintenance**
- Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities**
- Home Repair & Remodeling**
- Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control**

Home repair or remodeling that includes electrical, plumbing or an addition to your home requires a permit. You must get a permit from the Memphis & Shelby County Code Enforcement at (901) 222-8300.

For more information or assistance, call, email or write:

Tennessee Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Ave. Nashville, TN 37243

1-800-734-3619

BGSBEAP@tn.gov

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/section/sbeap-small-business-environmental-assistance>

Shelby County Storm Water Management Program
6463 Haley Road
Memphis, TN 38134
(901) 222-7705

Memphis & Shelby County Health Dept.
814 Jefferson
Memphis, TN 38105
(901) 222-9000

Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Food Service Industry

Brochure 2

**Restaurants
Grocery Stores
Bakeries**

Food Producers & Distributors

Problems

The by-products of food-related businesses can harm our streams and aquatic life if they enter the storm drain system. Food businesses can cause harm by putting food waste in leaky dumpsters, not cleaning up outdoor food or chemical spills, or by washing outdoor spills into the storm drain system.

Other routine activities such as cleaning oily vents and operating and maintaining delivery trucks are sources of pollution, unless proper precautions are taken. When it rains, motor oil that has dripped onto the parking lots from business and customer vehicles is washed into our streams and river via the storm drain system.

Oil and grease can clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. Also, toxins found in oven and floor cleaners can, in high concentrations, harm aquatic life.



Solutions

1. Keep Work Sites Clean

Best Management Practices such as handling, storing, and disposing of materials properly can prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain

Wash greasy equipment such as vents and vehicles before storing outside and only in designated wash areas properly connected to the sanitary sewer system with an appropriate oil/water separator. For more information concerning requirements for discharging into the sanitary sewer, please call **Memphis & Shelby County Health Department at (901) 222-9000.**

2. Minimize Wastes

Use non-disposable products. Serve food on ceramic dishes rather than paper, plastic or Styrofoam and use cloth napkins rather than paper ones. If you must use disposable products, use paper instead of polystyrene foam.

Buy the least toxic products available.

Look for “non-toxic”, “non-petroleum based”, “free of ammonia, phosphates, dye or perfume”, or “readily biodegradable” on the label.

Avoid chlorinated compounds, petroleum distillates, phenols and formaldehyde.

Use water-based products.

Look for “recycled” and “recyclable” containers.

3. Parking Lot Drainage

Cover, repair or replace leaky dumpsters and compactors, and/or drain pavement beneath them to the sanitary sewer. Rain can wash oil, grease and other substances into the storm drain system.

Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately. This will prevent contaminants from leaving the pavement.

Never hose down “dirty” pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.

4. Recycle Wastes

Purchase recycled products. By doing so, you help ensure a use for the recyclable materials that people collect and recycle.

Recycle the following materials:

Food waste (non-greasy, non-animal food waste can be composted)

Paper and cardboard

Aluminum and plastic

Oil and grease

Separate waste. Keep your recyclable wastes in separate containers according to the type of material. They are easier to recycle if separated.

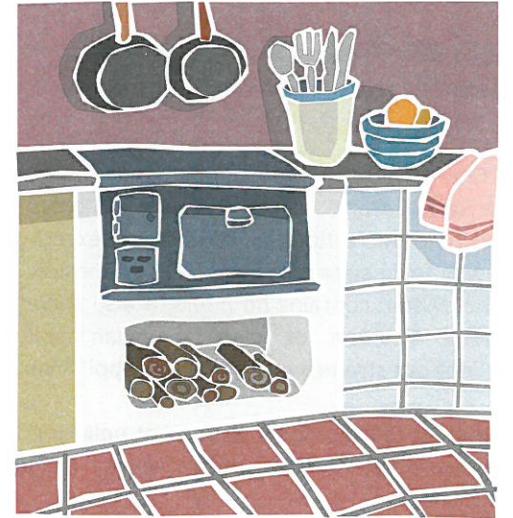
Paper and containers, aluminum, and plastic can be brought to the City’s Convenience Centers or can be placed in the blue recycle bags and picked up with your normal trash pickup.

Recycle oil and grease wastes. Never dump them down storm drains or on the ground. Look in the yellow pages for “rendering com-



FOR INSPECTION OF RESTAURANTS, GROCERY STORES, BAKERIES, AND FOOD PRODUCERS OR DISTRIBUTORS:

Call the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department (901) 222-9000.



5. Employee & Client Education

Employees can help prevent pollution when you include urban runoff training in employee orientations and reviews. Promote these Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Storage containers should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.

Store materials inside a building or build a covered area that is paved and designed to prevent runoff from entering storm drains. Place temporary plastic sheeting over materials or containers and secure the cover with ties and weighted objects. (Not appropriate for storing liquids.)

Place materials inside rigid, durable, watertight and rodent-proof containers with tight fitting covers.

Post BMPs where employees and customers can see them. Showing customers you protect our streams and river is good public relations.

Explain BMPs to other food businesses through your business associations or chambers of