

Why You Should Care

Small business owners and managers are often closely involved in their communities. One way to be a good neighbor is to be a good steward of natural resources, including local streams and rivers.

This also makes business sense as local governments have regulations to protect water quality that could result in legal action against a violator.

Only stormwater (rain and snowmelt) should be allowed to enter a storm drain, on or off site. You are responsible for any dirt or contaminants stormwater picks up on your property. For instance, runoff from cleaning should not enter the stormwater system. Roadside ditches are considered part of the stormwater system.

This brochure is intended as an introduction to preventing stormwater pollution, not a complete listing of regulations. Regulations vary among local governments. For more information, contact your municipal service director or township administrator.

Another good resource for small businesses is Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP). OCAPP offers free assistance to help you understand and comply with environmental regulations. Information given to OCAPP will not be shared with Ohio EPA inspection and enforcement staff. Call (614) 644-3469 or visit www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp.

Reporting Problems

If you see someone putting anything down a storm drain or directly into a stream or river, call your local police non-emergency number.

Chemical and petroleum spills: call the Ohio EPA 24-hour hotline, (800) 282-9378.

Sewage-related pollution: call the Franklin County Public Health 24-hour hotline, (614) 525-3965 or e-mail failingHSTS@franklincountyohio.gov.

Agriculture or manure-related pollution: call Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, (614) 486-9613 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or use the "Contact Us" tab at www.franklinswcd.org.

You can also contact Franklin Soil and Water about any other non-emergency pollution and we will inform the proper agency.



5181 Northwest Parkway
Hilliard, OH 43026
Ph: 614-876-7694



**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years

1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43212

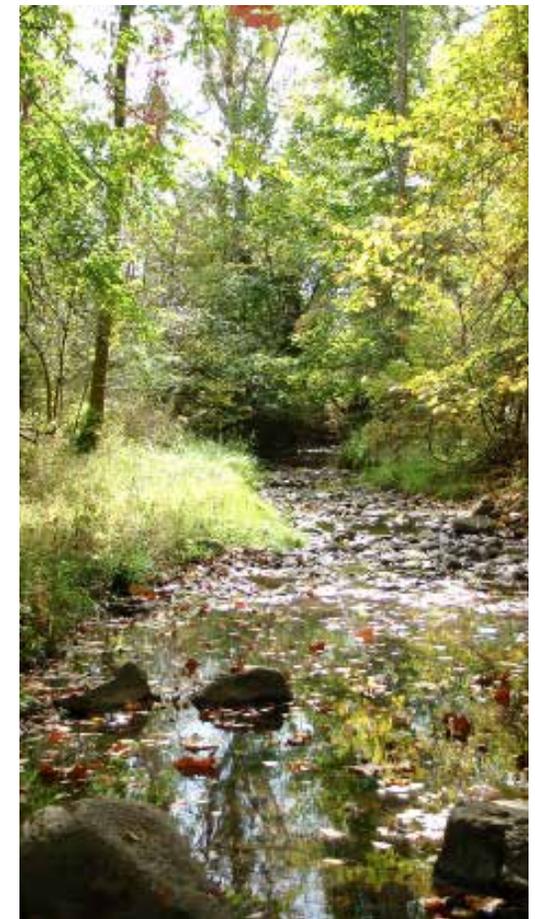
www.franklinswcd.org

(614) 486-9613

December 2013

Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Small Businesses

*An introduction to
protecting local streams*



What You Can Do...

... About Cleaning

Water from outdoor cleaning of items such as kitchen mats, grease traps, trash cans, paint brushes, cars, etc. must not enter a storm drain. It should be contained or directed to a sanitary sewer, possibly with pre-treatment.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and parking lots. Use absorbents to soak up spills.

Create a spill plan, post it somewhere visible and communicate it to your employees. Have spill absorbing products stored ready to use in a marked location.

... About Cars

Contain all leaking fluids from cars and store separately in labeled containers to send to a recycling facility.

Work done outside must be on a hard surface (not soil or gravel) with a drain to pre-treatment and a sanitary sewer system or another containment and collection system.

... About Landscaping

Blow leaves or lawn clippings from sidewalks and roads back onto the lawn or bag them for recycling.

Cover areas of bare soil with gravel, mulch or plants to keep soil from being washed into storm drains. Soil is the biggest pollutant in Ohio's streams.

Consider using a rain garden to control some of your property's rain water runoff.

...About Dumpsters

Keep your dumpster closed and ask your hauler to exchange it, if it has a damaged lid or is leaking.

Never put liquid waste in dumpsters. Check that the drainage hole has a plug in place.

Know what qualifies as hazardous waste and make arrangements for its proper disposal. Ohio EPA's Division of Hazardous Waste Management can be reached at (614) 644-2934.

...About Storage

Anything that is stored outside must be properly covered, even if it is "natural" like sand or gravel piles, or in bags like cement. A waterproof awning or tarp may be all you need.

Keep cans, drums and bottles tightly closed and check regularly for leaks.

Liquids should be stored on an impervious surface with a berm for secondary containment.

...About Off-Site Jobs

Carpet cleaning water may not be directed to ditches, streets or storm drains.

Latex painting tools should be washed only in sinks. Solvents are hazardous waste and may not be rinsed down either storm drains or sanitary sewers.

Power washing water must be contained and disposed of either to a sanitary sewer, possibly after pre-treatment, or as hazardous waste. Before hiring a contractor, know what he or she does with wastewater.



Pads used to absorb cooking oil that entered a stream from improper filter cleaning



Stream full of suds from stormwater system



Improper outdoor storage—no secondary containment