

Good housekeeping has an impact

especially when it comes to the responsible management of common chemicals — the kinds found at many municipal facilities and worksites.

The failure to properly handle, store or dispose of hazardous materials can result in harmful pollutants ending up in local waterways. Proper management of hazardous materials can significantly reduce pollution runoff.

The most common pollutants that result from municipal operations are:

- Sediment
- Oils and grease
- Nutrients, including fertilizers
- Trash
- Metals
- Bacteria
- Organics
- Pesticides
- Oxygen demanding substances
- Degreasers and solvents
- Oil-based paints
- Hydraulic fluids
- Antifreeze



Additional Resources

Visit the Green Country Stormwater Alliance web site listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including municipal best management practices (BMPs), recycling and reuse, and more.



Contact Information:

For information about the Green Country Stormwater Alliance, contact INCOG at 918-584-7526 or by email at stormwater@incog.org. For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

For more information about stormwater protection, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100 or visit the DEQ web site at: www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/index.html

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at www.deq.state.ok.us/ECLShew/Complaints/onlncompl.htm and submit it electronically to the DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

Brochure Rev.2017-9



Handling & Disposal of Chemicals at Municipal Sites



A Closer Look at

Proper Chemical Handling & Disposal



Chemical Management Basics

Best management practices (BMPs) used for the storage and handling of harmful chemicals will minimize the amounts needed and reduce the wastes generated by municipal operations.

Simple and practical BMPs include routine cleaning of work spaces, collecting and disposing of wastes properly, maintaining machinery, inspecting equipment and facilities regularly, and training employees to respond to spills and leaks.

Choosing the right BMPs will significantly reduce pollution in stormwater runoff.

Scheduled inspections will help control the storage and disposal of harmful chemicals and help the facility meet all state and federal rules on chemical storage, use and disposal.

State and federal rules on the handling of chemicals in the workplace are complex. They cover the generation, transport and disposal of wastes; the storage and use of materials at facilities; and worker safety in handling chemicals.

Internet Resources (places to start your search):

OSHA:
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3084.html>

RCRA: <https://www.epa.gov/rcra>

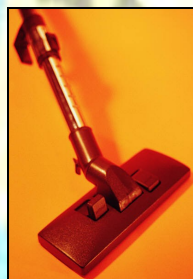
USTs: <http://occeweb.com/ps/aboutpst1.html>

SDS (was MSDS):
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3514.html>

Tips for Chemical Handling

The manner in which chemicals and hazardous substances are handled can have an impact on the control of polluted stormwater runoff.

- Ensure that all employees who handle harmful chemicals are properly trained according to all state and federal rules.
- Use chemicals only as directed.
- Ensure that all chemical containers are labeled and stored properly.
- Follow all recommended procedures when preparing chemicals (e.g., mixing pesticide solutions).
- Do not overfill containers.
- Clean up all spills as soon as possible using proper spill containment and personal protection methods and gear.
- Ensure that personal protective equipment (PPE) is maintained properly.
- Never dispose of unused chemicals by washing them into storm drains, ditches, or streams.
- Do not flush chemicals down an indoor drain or toilet.
- Know how to read and use SDS forms, and know where they are located at the worksite.
- Know what to do and who to contact in case of an emergency.



Tips for Chemical Disposal

It is NEVER safe to pour chemical waste down a drain, into a gutter or into a trash receptacle. Some tips for safe chemical disposal include:

- Isolate broken, contaminated containers and take steps to dispose of them properly. Never put contaminated waste into the general trash.
- Follow all local, state and federal safe chemical disposal methods for cleaning up spills.
- Never combine chemicals by placing them together in a waste receptacle or container.
- Always refer to federal, state, and local guidelines for hazardous material disposal.
- When in doubt, ask before taking any step to dispose of chemicals or chemical waste.

Additional Information Sources:

OSHA Training:
<https://www.osha.gov/dte/index.html>

EPA NPDES Stormwater Program:
<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>

This brochure is not intended to provide complete guidance on hazard communication (HAZCOM) or hazardous materials (HAZMAT) programs. This brochure is for general educational purposes only. Consult your manager or supervisor on your responsibilities with handling potentially harmful chemicals in the workplace.