

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the untreated runoff that flows from storm drains into local creeks and rivers. This runoff picks up pollutants from streets, roofs, and other surfaces and brings them straight to local wildlife- which can harm aquatic ecosystems.

Some local business types are subject to industrial stormwater permits, known as OKR05 in Oklahoma. All businesses should take measures to protect local water resources.



## What can businesses do?

Actions that a business can take are called **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**. These can prevent or reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. In addition, many BMPs make good business sense by improving the efficiency of inventory processing and increasing workplace safety.

**This brochure contains information about important General BMPs that can be used to control pollutants at industrial facilities and local businesses.**

## OKR05 Stormwater Permit

For permitting information, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

ODEQ is the stormwater permitting authority in Oklahoma. See [Oklahoma.gov/DEQ](http://Oklahoma.gov/DEQ) for permit requirements and forms.

# Oklahoma Businesses' Guide to Protecting Water Resources



For more resources, visit  
**StormwaterOK.net**

A Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) Guidebook for Oklahoma Businesses

## Restaurants

- Connect all drains to the city sewer; never discharge wastes to storm drains or creeks.
- Regularly clean all grease traps, and operate with no leaks or overflows.
- Dispose of all waste materials in proper receptacles.
- Recycle used cooking oil and grease at rendering companies.
- Keep all dumpster lids closed and the areas around them clean.



## Landscaping

- Do not sweep or hose yard waste and chemicals into driveways or the street.
- Use natural, non-toxic alternatives to traditional garden chemicals.
- Dispose of unused lawn chemicals at an authorized chemical waste facility.
- Set sprinkler timing to conserve water and to only operate in dry periods.
- Use native plants to reduce water and chemical use and enhance survivability.

## Automotive Services

- Never mix chemicals together in a common container.
- Store materials in a rain-proof area; keep chemicals in a spill containment device.
- Recycle batteries, motor oil, filters, anti-freeze, and other fluids.
- Use absorbents and drip pans to capture leaking auto fluids.
- Wash vehicles at a designated wash rack connected to the sanitary sewer.

## Power Washing

- Dry-sweep the area with absorbents to remove liquids, trash, dirt and debris.
- Never discharge power washing runoff into a storm drain or ditch.
- Degreasers and solvents should be used sparingly.
- Confine spray runoff, then use wet/dry vacuums to collect wash water.
- Pump wash water into a sanitary sewer or service truck for offsite disposal.

## Carpet Cleaning

- Discharge wastewater into a sanitary sewer.
- Never discharge wastewater into a street, parking lot or storm drain.
- Filter wastewater before release.
- Dispose of trash and non-hazardous filtered materials in the garbage.

## BMPs for all Businesses

- All drains used for washing vehicles or disposal must connect to the sanitary sewer system.
- Never pour chemicals into parking lots, streets, storm drains or ditches.
- Use less-toxic alternatives to dangerous chemicals, such as biodegradable detergents.
- Dry-brush dirt and contaminants off of equipment; don't wash off with water.



- Add porous surfaces, biofilters and vegetated swales around property to absorb runoff.
- Store chemicals in a covered area away from rainfall, and recycle unused materials.
- Keep dumpster lids closed when not in use, and keep waste disposal areas clean.

