

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 rainwater 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.shrlbycountyttn.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

Memphis & Shelby County Health and Sanitation
Dept. (901) 222-9000

To Report a Drainage Problem

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

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

Food Service Industry
Automotive Maintenance & Car Care
Detention Pond Maintenance
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

8th Floor, L&C Annex, 401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1551

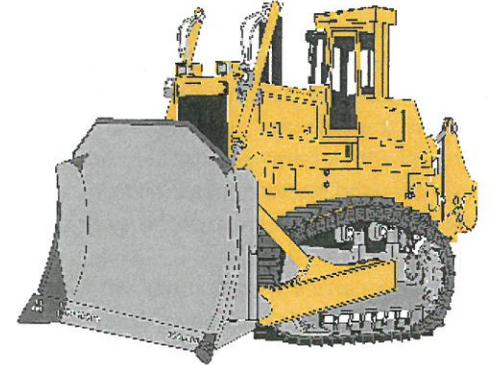
1-800-734-3619
BGSBEAP@tn.gov

<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

Shelby County Office of Planning & Development
125 N. Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 576-6601

Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Heavy Equipment & Earth Moving Activities

Brochure 4

Site Supervisors
**Bulldozer, Backhoe
& Gardening**
Machine Operators
Dump Truck Drivers
General Contractors
Home Builders
Developers

Heavy Equipment Operation Problems

Soil excavation and grading operations often contribute to urban runoff pollution. By loosening large amounts of soil and sediment, earth-moving activities can cause sediment to flow into gutters, storm drains and the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it leaves the work site. Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases water temperature, all which harm aquatic life. Sediment also blocks gutters and storm drains increasing the risk of flooding in areas downstream of the work site.

Sediment also carries with it other work site pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, cement wash, asphalt, and car fluids like motor oil, grease and fuel. Thus, poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel and oil at the construction site also contribute to storm water pollution.

Land Disturbance Permits

Shelby County requires that a Developer contact the Office of Planning & Development prior to beginning any land disturbing activity unless the activity is covered by the Tennessee Right to Farm Act or involves home landscaping or gardening. This permit requires developers to develop and implement an erosion control plan. For more information, contact Memphis & Shelby County Office of Planning and Development at 901-576-7197.

Solutions

Best Management Practices, such as handling, storing and disposing of materials properly can prevent excavation site pollutants from entering storm drains.

1. General Business Practices

Schedule excavation and grading work for dry weather.

Use as little water as possible for dust control.

Obtain a copy of the [Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook](#), August, 2012, available from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

For site specific guidance or any questions you may have regarding erosion control please call the Public Works Department of respective Municipality.

For local construction site inspection, call Shelby County Code Enforcement (901) 222-8300.



2. Clean up Spills

Never hose down “dirty” pavement or impermeable surfaces where fluids have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods (saw dust, cat litter and/or rags).

Sweep up dry materials immediately. Never attempt to bury them or “wash them away” with water.

Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.

Report significant spills to the appropriate spill response agencies immediately. Use the telephone numbers provided on the back of this pamphlet.



3. Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently for leaks.

Conduct all vehicle/equipment maintenance and refueling at one location — away from storm drains.

Perform major maintenance, repair jobs off-site.

Designate a washing site where water drains to the sanitary sewer system. Contact each Municipality in which you are working for requirements for connecting to the sanitary sewer.

Use and maintain gravel construction entrances where truck traffic is frequent to reduce soil compaction and limit tracking of sediment into streets.

Use drip pans or drop cloths to catch drips and spills, if you drain and replace motor oil, radiator coolant or other fluids on site. Collect all used fluids, store in separate containers and recycle whenever possible.

Do not use diesel fuel to lubricate equipment or parts.

4. Erosion Prevention

After clearing, grading or excavating, exposed soil poses a clear and immediate danger of storm water pollution. Re-vegetation (permanent or temporary) is an excellent form of erosion control for any site.

Avoid excavation and grading activities during wet weather.

Inspect your erosion control installations after every rain and at least once a week.

Construct diversion dikes to channel runoff around the site. Stabilize channels with grass or other material. Place small check dams or rip rap in channel to reduce runoff velocity.

Cover stockpiles and excavated soil with secured tarps or plastic sheeting.

Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary. Large projects should be conducted in phases.

Consider planting temporary vegetation for erosion control on slopes or where construction is not immediately planned.

Plant permanent vegetation as soon as possible, once excavation and grading activities are complete.

