

# Tips for a Cleaner Creek

HOW YOUR BUSINESS CAN  
PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION



## These guidelines cover the following topics:

General Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices and  
Good Housekeeping • Outdoor Storage of Materials and Wastes  
Equipment and Vehicle Washing • Landscape Maintenance • Mercury and Litter  
Additional Information and Local Agency Contacts



# YOU CAN PREVENT WATER POLLUTION!

Storm drains  
lead directly  
to creeks,  
rivers, and  
oceans!

**T**he following pollution prevention practices for rainfall runoff (stormwater) will help you comply with laws that protect stormwater and the environment. Stormwater can easily cause pollution because it typically flows directly to creeks and the Bay without any treatment. **You may have to pay for clean up costs and fines, have permits revoked, or even go to jail for stormwater pollution,** such as spilling chemicals and/or discharging other wastes and washwaters to streets, storm drains, creeks, and rivers.

Hosing dirt, soap, litter and other pollutants down a storm drain is illegal. Unlike flows from building interior fixtures (sinks, toilets, etc.) that are treated at wastewater treatment plants, outdoor washwaters and rainfall runoff flow directly to creeks typically without treatment of any kinds.

Polluting stormwater  
is against the law!

# GENERAL POLLUTION PREVENTION PRACTICES

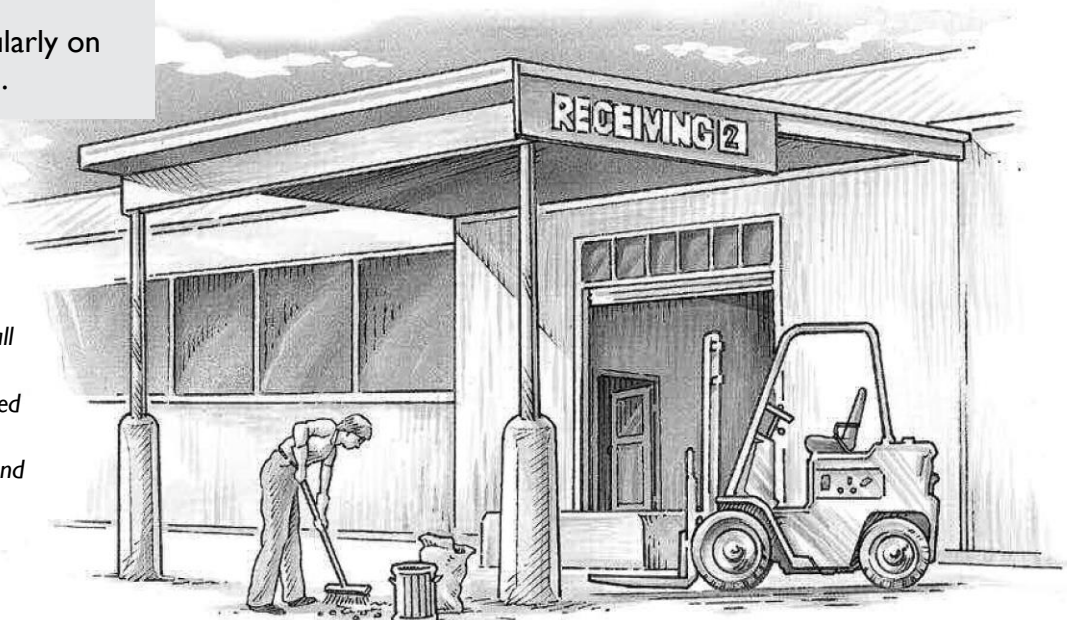
*These good housekeeping practices are required and critical to protecting our environment.*

## Five Important Things to Remember:

1. Keep your business neat and clean – it saves time and money and prevents pollution.
2. Protect your storm drain inlets from pollution of any kind.
3. **Be prepared!** Keep spill cleanup materials easily accessible.
4. Use dry methods to clean up spills whenever possible. Never wash spills down the storm drain.
5. Train staff regularly on these practices.

- **Label/stencil each storm drain inlet** to remind workers and customers that no dumping is allowed.
- **Routinely inspect and clean:**
  - ✓ Storm drain inlets (grates and sumps)
  - ✓ Loading docks and shipping/receiving areas
  - ✓ Work areas
  - ✓ Chemical storage areas
  - ✓ Waste storage and recycling areas
  - ✓ Treatment devices for proper functioning
- **Keep surfaces clean** by sweeping, vacuuming or mopping – never wash down surfaces to gutter, storm drain inlet, street, or waterway. For pressure washing of pavement or other surfaces hire a cleaning contractor trained to use pollution prevention practices. Make sure all washwater is collected and disposed properly.
- **Sweep parking areas and gutters** at least monthly and before it rains and pick up litter and trash daily.
- **Prevent spills** when transferring liquids by using drip pans, secondary containment, and absorbents.
- **Clean up spills** immediately with rags, absorbents\*, or wet/dry vacuum. Do not allow fluids to accumulate or run across surfaces. Never wash spills down or allow spills to flow into a storm or sanitary sewer drain inlet. Clean up absorbents immediately following their use.
- **Perform work indoors or under cover**, whenever possible, to avoid exposure to rainfall, runoff, and wind. If outdoor work generates small particles or dust, the particles must be contained and vacuumed up.

*\*Absorbent that was used on a small spill is being swept up for disposal. Used absorbents may be hazardous waste and must be properly disposed.*



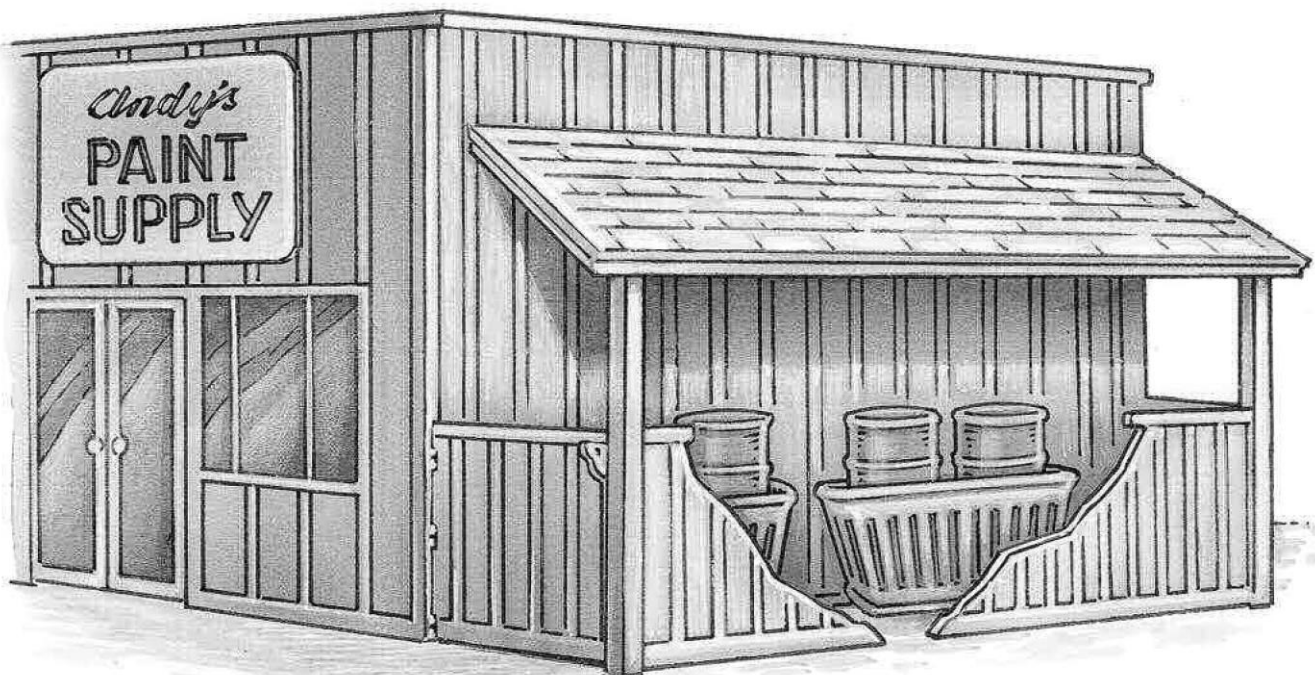


# OUTDOOR MATERIALS STORAGE

- Store materials on a **paved surface** and **under a roof**, in a fully enclosed container, or under a temporary waterproof covering to prevent contact with rainfall and runoff.
- Store fluids **within secondary containment** to prevent accidental release. **Keep container lids, caps, and openings closed** when not in use. Keep containers out of pooled or standing water. Regularly inspect containers for cracks, corrosion, or leaky seams.
- Apply **caution and control** when transferring liquids to minimize spill potential.
- Have **cleanup materials** easily accessible. Regularly train employees on spill cleanup procedures.
- Store all **items as far as possible from storm drain inlets**
- Use **drip pans** under outdoor work or storage areas where there is the potential for spills and leaks.

## If You Must Store Materials Outdoors:

1. Protect from rain and runoff.
2. Place primary containers of liquids within secondary containment.
3. Do not place near storm drain inlets.
4. Check with Fire Department if sprinklers may be required under roof/cover.
5. Keep spill cleanup materials in easily accessible areas.



*Paints stored on a paved surface, under a roof, and within secondary containment to catch spills.*



## Education and Training

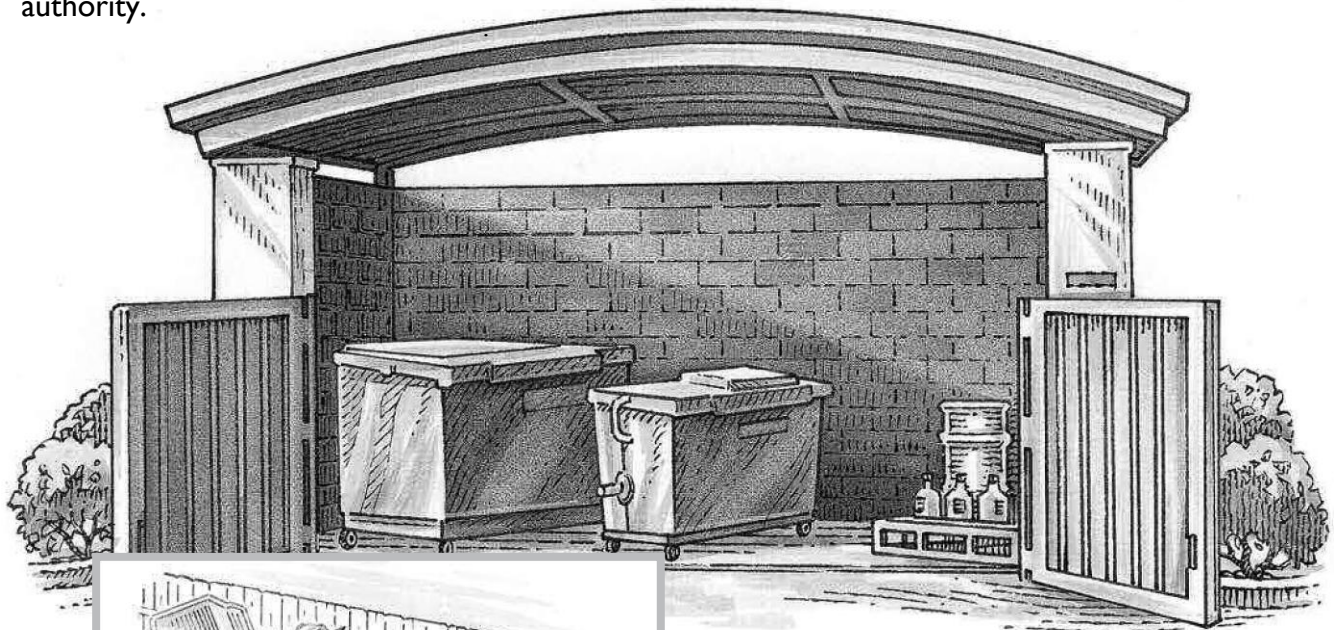
*Train new employees and remind existing ones to use these stormwater pollution prevention practices.*

# OUTDOOR WASTE STORAGE

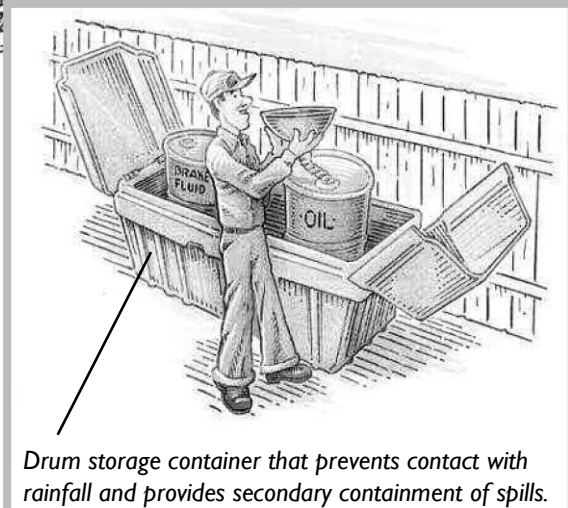
- **Inspect dumpsters and waste recycling area daily.** Pick up dropped wastes and sweep area. Make sure dumpsters are not overfilled and lids are kept closed. Dumpsters without tight lids or that leak must be replaced or repaired. Some dumpsters have plugs that need to be in place. Contact your service provider.
- **Prevent and clean up any trash compactor leachate** drippings or direct to sanitary sewer with approval of your local sanitary sewer treatment authority.
- Use separate, appropriate, clean, sealed, and secondarily **contained storage device** for recyclable fluids and hazardous wastes. Label containers as required by hazardous waste regulations.
- Use a licensed company to haul and recycle or dispose of wastes.
- Do not rinse waste containers or areas to storm drain.

## Waste Disposal and Recycling:

1. Don't dispose to storm drain. Recycle whenever possible.
2. Divide wastes by types and store separately in sealed containers.
3. Use a big enough dumpster so you can keep the lids closed.
4. Replace leaking dumpsters.



*Dumpster, tallow bin, and materials for recycling stored on a paved surface, under a roof, protected from rainfall runoff.*



*Drum storage container that prevents contact with rainfall and provides secondary containment of spills.*

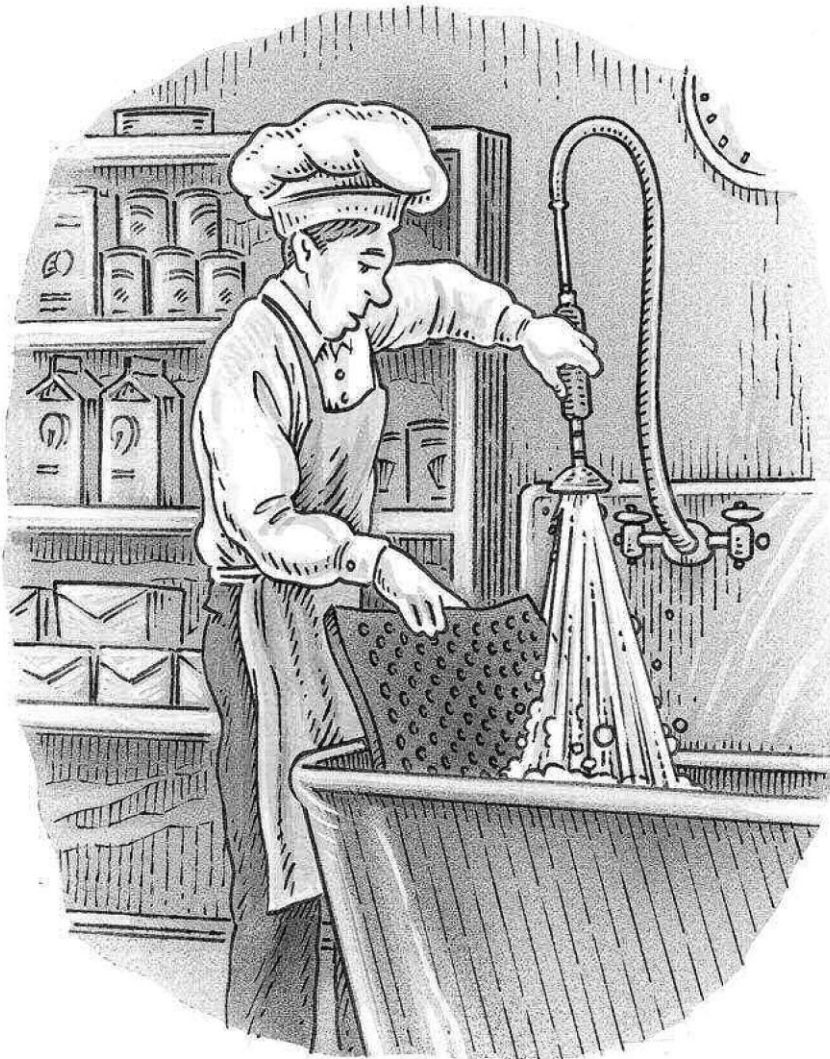


**Consult your local hazardous waste regulator** about hazardous materials disposal and handling. See back page for contact information.



# EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE WASHING

- If possible, **wash equipment indoors**, at a utility sink or location where washwaters drain to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local sanitary sewer treatment authority for approval (see last page).
- Alternatively, **wash equipment or vehicles** on an adequately-sized, wash pad that is roofed, bermed, and connected to a washwater treatment system and the sanitary sewer.
- Connection to the sanitary sewer may also require a plumbing permit from your local jurisdiction. Contact the Town.
- All grease traps and interceptors and vehicle washing systems **shall be maintained and cleaned out** on a regular schedule. Collected solids must be disposed using a licensed waste hauler.
- Mobile washing of some types of equipment, such as roof exhaust equipment or shopping carts, is acceptable if all washwater is contained, vacuumed up, and disposed to the sanitary sewer.



Kitchen floor mat washing in a janitorial/mop sink

## Equipment Washing:

1. Direct all washwater to the sanitary sewer.
2. Maintain any required treatment system.
3. Don't direct any wash or rinse water to gutter, street, or storm drain.
4. Clean equipment or vehicles offsite, if other options are unavailable.



**Consult your local sanitary sewer treatment authority** for approval regarding any equipment or vehicle washing system. See last page for contact information.

# LANDSCAPING AND SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

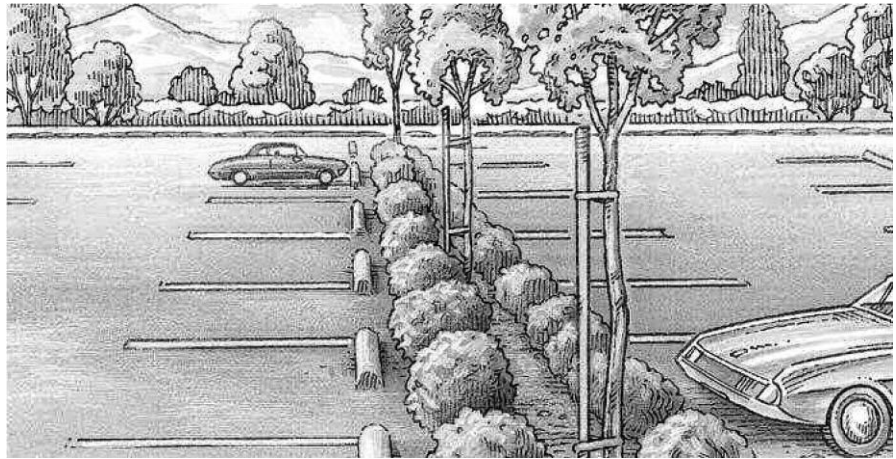
- Stormwater pollution prevention and treatment systems are being increasingly included in landscaping. Know whether your landscaping is specifically designed to minimize and treat stormwater runoff, and, if it is, make sure it is maintained as designed.
- Use less toxic alternatives to pesticides. For more information on integrated pest management, visit [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org).
- **Do not overwater**

– maintain sprinklers to avoid pavement watering.

- **Clean up fallen leaves** and remove prunings for composting or disposal with green wastes. Don't dispose in street, storm drain, or creek.

## Landscape Maintenance:

1. Follow maintenance plan for any landscape-based stormwater treatment system.
2. Use least toxic pest control methods.
3. Minimize use of fertilizer.



Here is an example of a vegetated swale used for treating stormwater drainage from a parking lot. Swales allow stormwater pollutants a chance to settle and, where soils are sandy, to recharge groundwater aquifers.

## MERCURY AND LITTER

### MERCURY

Mercury contaminates fish making them unsafe to eat.

- Properly **dispose** as hazardous waste **or recycle** all mercury-containing products, including **fluorescent** lamps light bulbs, manometers, thermostats, watches, and batteries. **In order to prevent contamination of fish, it is no longer legal to dispose any of these wastes as trash with your regular garbage.**

- Consult the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's website [www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/hazardous-waste-program.html](http://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/hazardous-waste-program.html) For detailed information on how to dispose of mercury-containing and other universal hazardous wastes. Don't throw it in the trash – it is illegal!

### LITTER

Litter and trash are bad for business and can harm the

health of creeks and rivers.

- **Provide enough trash receptacles** for customers and employees. All outdoor receptacles must be covered.
- **Pick up litter daily.** Maintain the sidewalk in front of your business so that it is free of litter and dirt. Don't wash into street or storm drain.
- Any **creek** passing through or next to your property **must be maintained free of trash and debris.**

## LOCAL AGENCY CONTACTS

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### Local Stormwater Inspectors

### Phone Number

Town of Jonesborough.....(423) 753-1030

[www.jonesboroughtn.org/index.php/component/k2/142](http://www.jonesboroughtn.org/index.php/component/k2/142)

### Local Hazardous Waste Regulator

### Phone Number

TN Dept of Environment & Conservation.....(615) 532-0780

[www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/hazardous-waste-program.html](http://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/hazardous-waste-program.html)

### Sanitary Sewer Treatment Authorities

### Phone Number

Jonesborough Wastewater Treatment Plant.....(423) 753-1022

[www.jonesboroughtn.org/index.php/town-services/town-services/water-wastewater-dept/wastewater](http://www.jonesboroughtn.org/index.php/town-services/town-services/water-wastewater-dept/wastewater)



*All discharges to sanitary sewer must be approved by your local sanitary sewer treatment authority. Never discharge into a storm drain.*

*Your business may be regulated by several State and Local agencies for environmental compliance. In addition to what is listed, you may need to obtain coverage under the NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit. Visit: [tn.gov](http://tn.gov) for more information.*

*The Town gratefully acknowledges the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program for allowing the adaptation and use of its booklet.*