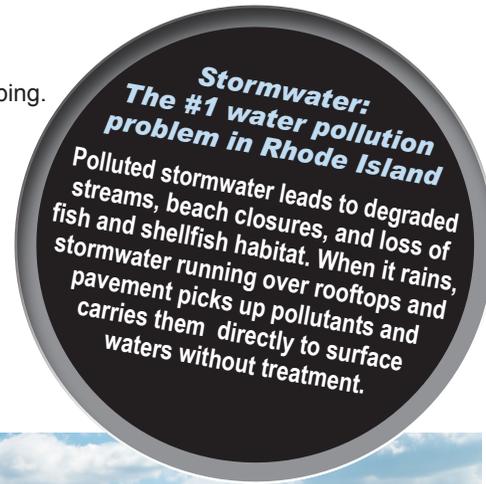


Top 10 Simple Steps

Businesses contribute stormwater pollution from large rooftops and parking areas, and by careless management of materials. You can do your part by following these simple steps:

1. Break the connection to storm sewers.
2. Store hazardous materials properly (inside or under cover).
3. Train employees to manage spills and practice good housekeeping.
4. Use a mop sink when cleaning floor mats and equipment.
5. Keep dumpsters covered and leak-proof.
6. Maintain your fleet by fixing leaks and washing vehicles at a (commercial) car wash.
7. Keep your parking lot and service areas clean.
8. Keep wetlands and shorelines clean and natural.
9. Limit outdoor watering and fertilizing.
10. Design your site to infiltrate, filter or slow stormwater runoff.



Self-Inspection Checklist

- Use this checklist to find out if you are in compliance with your community's storm water permit.

Discharges

Discharge of polluted stormwater is prohibited by the RI DEM and by most municipalities under the US EPA "Storm Water Phase II" program.

1. Break the connection to storm sewers.

- Make sure that spills or wastewater can't flow into a storm sewer by any sump pump, drain, or surface stormwater flow.
- Check internal drains for improper connections to storm sewers.
- Contact your city/town to see if clean water discharges to storm sewers are allowed.
- Grade and pave loading and unloading areas away from water courses and stormdrains for easy spill clean-up.

Hazardous Materials

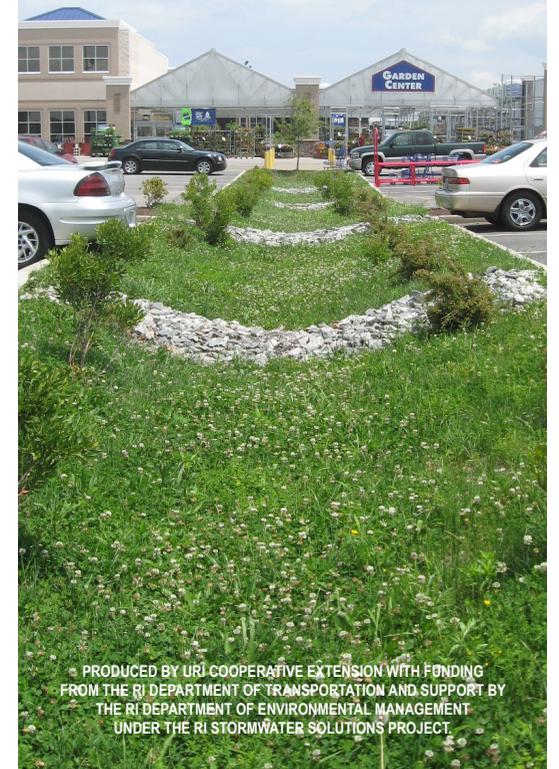
2. Store hazardous materials properly.

Examples of hazardous materials include: process chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, cleaning materials, waste materials, oil and gasoline.

Store hazardous materials and wastes:

- Under cover to keep them out of the rain and snow.
- In a secondary containment system large enough to contain the material if the container begins to leak. This can range from simply putting the container of hazardous material in a bucket, to constructing a berm.

How the new Municipal Stormwater Program Affects Your Business



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- Away from any location where leaks could get into storm drains or waterways, such as near sump pumps for groundwater removal, storage locations near streams, wetlands, rivers, etc.

3. Train employees to manage spills and practice good housekeeping.

- Have a spill response plan and clean up kit handy. Repeat training regularly.
- Use “dry” methods for clean up and spills. Keep a broom, mop and absorbent material such as booms, kitty litter, or saw dust handy.
- Never use water to wash off a spill.
- See DEM website www.dem.ri.gov/programs/director/emeresp/index.htm for more information on hazardous waste generators.

Housekeeping

4. Use a mop sink for cleaning floor mats and equipment.

- Pour wash water down a mop sink, not outside. Do not allow wash water containing soaps and other contaminants to flow into storm drains.
- Grease, oils and fats should be disposed of in a grease, oil and fat recycling container.

5. Keep dumpsters covered and leak-proof.

- Keep them covered to keep water out and prevent trash and dumpster “juice” from escaping. Don’t have dumpsters placed next to storm drains. Keep the drain plugs in.

6. Maintain your fleet. Fix leaks and drips and use a commercial car wash.

- If you must wash vehicles or equipment outdoors, use water only, or wash on grassy areas and divert soapy water away from storm drains.

7. Keep your parking lot and service areas clean.

- Be sure there are enough covered trash and cigarette receptacles (on your property). Regularly empty the trash and pick up other litter.
- Sweep the parking lot at least annually to remove winter road sand, and as necessary throughout the year. Store it where it will not blow or wash away.
- Inspect catch basins annually and clean as necessary – when no more than 75% full.

8. Keep wetlands and shorelines clean and natural.

- Keep these areas free of trash, yard waste, and debris that can pollute or obstruct water flow.
- Allow vegetation to grow into a natural buffer instead of mowing to wetland edges.
- All maintenance actions must be completed in accordance with State and local wetlands regulations.

What are Illegal Discharges?

- 1) Pipes, drains or ditches that lead to the stormdrain system from any of the following sources: sewers, process wastewater, wash water and any connections from indoor drains and sinks (even if previously approved)
- 2) Any connections to the stormdrain system from commercial or industrial land which has not been documented and approved. This means that all the catch basins on your site should be on plans or maps held by the municipality and they should be permitted.
- 3) When in doubt remember: Only Rain Down the Drain – only rainwater should flow into your on-site catch basins.

What are Legal Discharges?

Generally, uncontaminated waters that flow off your site when it rains and also: wash water from washing vehicles and external building areas if no soap is used, dechlorinated pool discharges, air conditioning condensation, irrigation drainage, foundation or footing drains, roof runoff and sump pumps where flows are not contaminated with process materials such as solvents, or contaminated by contact with soils where spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have occurred.

9. Limit outdoor watering and fertilizing.

- Keep water and fertilizer on the grass, not pavement.
- Replace some lawn area with low-care plantings.
- Let your lawn go dormant in the summer; or water no more than one inch a week.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to recycle nutrients; or fertilize sparingly in September.

10. Design your site to infiltrate, filter or detain runoff.

- Divert roof leaders, foundation drains, air conditioning condensate and other clean water to landscaped areas.
- When renovating your site and parking lot, update the drainage system and landscaping using new methods such as rain gardens and dry wells for roofs and parking lots.
- Redesign parking lot islands to double as landscaped stormwater treatment systems. Avoid curbs that prevent stormwater from flowing to landscaped areas.

Be Recognized For Your Efforts

If your business is located in the Blackstone River Watershed, schedule a visit with the Blackstone River Coalition to learn about the “In Business for the Blackstone” program. Participation includes education, technical assistance and public recognition.

Contact: Peter Coffin at 508-753-6087

Email: peter.coffin@zaptheblackstone.org

Website: <http://www.zaptheblackstone.org>

(See “In Business for the Blackstone” under “What we are doing”) RI Municipalities in the Blackstone River Watershed include: Burrillville, Glocester, N. Smithfield, Lincoln, Cumberland, Central Falls, Pawtucket and Woonsocket.

For More Information

Contact: Margarita Chatterton, RIDEM Water Resources
margarita.chatterton@dem.ri.gov
 or your municipality’s stormwater manager.

List available at: www.ristormwatersolutions.org/docs/MS4ContactList.pdf

Results and Next Steps

1. Review your answers - is there room for improvement?
2. List actions you can easily take now: _____
3. List improvements you can start to work on: _____

KEEP THE SELF INSPECTION CHECKLIST FOR YOUR RECORDS.