

# Outside Storage

**S**ome businesses store equipment and bulk materials outside. Building repair, maintenance and remodeling projects also often require temporary outside storage of materials and equipment. Unprotected outdoor storage areas may be a source of pollutants, including sediment, chemicals, nutrients, oil, grease or concrete. Providing protective cover is a simple and effective way to prevent pollution. Temporary tarps, plastic sheeting or tents may be used, or more sturdy long-term structures such as sheds, roofs or canopies are effective.

## TO PREVENT WATER POLLUTION

- Minimize the amount of equipment, materials, construction debris and wastes stored outside. Whenever possible, store these items indoors.
- Keep equipment, materials and containers, including open bags of cement, covered to prevent exposure to rain and runoff.
- Inspect storage areas, containers and covers regularly to ensure they are in good condition. Repair or replace any damaged items.
- Sweep and pick up litter and sediment that accumulate around storage areas.
- Check equipment for leaks and clean up any that occur.
- Place products that have the potential to leak in plastic trays or buckets to capture and contain any leaks or spills. This “secondary containment” also protects equipment and materials from being exposed to runoff. If containment is not used, keep materials or equipment off the ground on pallets or blocks so leaks can be quickly spotted and cleaned up.
- Clearly label all chemical and storage containers and store away from storm drains.



## TROUBLED WATERS

One gallon of oil in the storm drain can pollute up to one million gallons of storm water.



Use secondary containment to capture any leaks or spills.

