

Clean Water is Everyone's Business

Today's customer appreciates businesses with sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices. Keeping your business and surrounding property clean is important when appealing to these customers and can also help prevent pollution. Prevention practices can be simple and inexpensive and save your business valuable time and money.

Water pollution comes from many sources. When it rains, pollutants such as litter, oil, grit, chemicals and bacteria flow off hard surfaces and are carried by runoff to storm drains, which lead directly to local streams, the Potomac River and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. Once these pollutants are in the water, they can have harmful environmental and health impacts, including contaminating drinking water sources and impacting water quality for fish and other aquatic life. Water pollution can also occur as a result of everyday cleaning and maintenance activities; wastewater runoff from cleaning dumpsters and equipment, pressure washing, landscaping activities or direct dumping into gutters or storm drains. In addition to being harmful to the environment, it is illegal to dump or pour anything besides clean water into the gutter, down a storm drain or into a stream.

Fairfax County operates a public storm drainage system called a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to collect stormwater that runs off the land and transport it to waterways. Fairfax County's MS4 permit requires the county to prevent the discharge of pollutants (often called "non-point source" pollutants) such as motor oil, fertilizer, pet waste and trash from the county's stormwater drainage system into streams. In addition, it requires storm event monitoring and assessment of the effectiveness of stormwater controls being used in the county.

Fairfax County's MS4 permit is mandated by the Clean Water Act and by the Environmental Protection Agency's stormwater regulations. Fairfax County has implemented an industrial and high risk runoff inspection program in order to comply with the requirements of its MS4 permit. The goal of the program is to identify and control pollutants in stormwater discharges from industrial and commercial facilities that are most at risk of discharging a significant amount of pollutants to the county's MS4. The county conducts inspections of such facilities and works with businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Fairfax County also responds to reports concerning investigations of illicit discharges and improper disposals.



TROUBLED WATERS

Forty percent of America's rivers are too polluted for fishing, swimming or aquatic life.



TROUBLED WATERS

Polluted stormwater runoff is the number one cause of water pollution in the country.



The MS4 permit does not cover storm drainage systems owned or operated by the Towns of Clifton, Vienna, and Herndon; the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church; Fort Belvoir; Dulles International Airport and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Fairfax County has information on best management practices your business can follow to prevent pollution that occurs from daily operation or maintenance activities. In addition to good housekeeping practices, there are additional ways your business can help prevent pollution and be environmentally friendly. The following bullets offer a few ways businesses can prevent stormwater pollution:

- Consider installing a water quality treatment device or Best Management Practice (BMP) on your property to filter and clean runoff, especially if your business has a large parking lot or loading dock area. These paved areas may be significant sources pollution.
- Educate staff, contractors and service providers about stormwater pollution. Post educational signs or posters in appropriate areas to help employees and service providers understand what they should do to prevent pollution.
- Report illegal dumping in Fairfax County by calling Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711.
- Label any storm drains around your business with no dumping markers.
- Ensure that all internal connections such as kitchen sinks, washing machines and restrooms are not connected to the storm drain system. When renovating areas and adding new restrooms and sinks in work areas, contractors should make sure that their drains are connected to the sanitary sewer drains and not the storm drain system.

The Stormwater Management Ordinance, Chapter 124 of the Fairfax County Code, prohibits the discharge of anything other than stormwater into the storm drain system. Business and homeowners that fail to comply with this Ordinance shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of Chapter 124. For more information, contact the Stormwater Planning Division at 703-324-5500, TTY 711 or visit our website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater.



Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Stormwater Planning Division

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703-324-5500, TTY 711 / SWPDmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

To request this information in an alternate format call 703-324-5500,

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DO YOU KNOW?

Fairfax County's Owner's Guide to Maintaining Stormwater Management Facilities is a good source of information on stormwater best management practices and maintenance needs. Visit Fairfax County's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, and search for "You and Your Stormwater Management Facility."

Additionally, Best Management Practices (BMP) fact sheets can be found on the county's website by searching for "stormwater facility fact sheets."

Thank you for helping to protect Fairfax streams, the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay!