

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Mobile Business

INTRODUCTION

The Boise River is an important resource in our community. It offers many recreational opportunities to our citizens and provides a critical habitat important to our natural environment. Citizens, businesses, industry and government must work together to protect the River and our other water resources in the Treasure Valley.



Mobile Businesses create important economic contributions by providing necessary services to the community. Due to the nature of their operations, if not managed properly, mobile businesses have the potential to cause stormwater pollution. The Partners for Clean Water have developed this fact sheet to help educate mobile business owners and employees on what they can do to prevent stormwater pollution and protect the Boise River. This fact sheet provides information for all mobile businesses but is focused specifically to mobile carpet cleaners, pet related mobile businesses, mobile power washing and mobile vehicle washing businesses.

Mobile Businesses can minimize or eliminate their contribution to storm water, preventing pollution and ultimately protecting the water quality in the Boise River.

Keeping the pollutants out of the Boise River and our ground water ensures that future generations will be able to enjoy all of the treasures of our valley!



WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF AND STORMWATER POLLUTION?

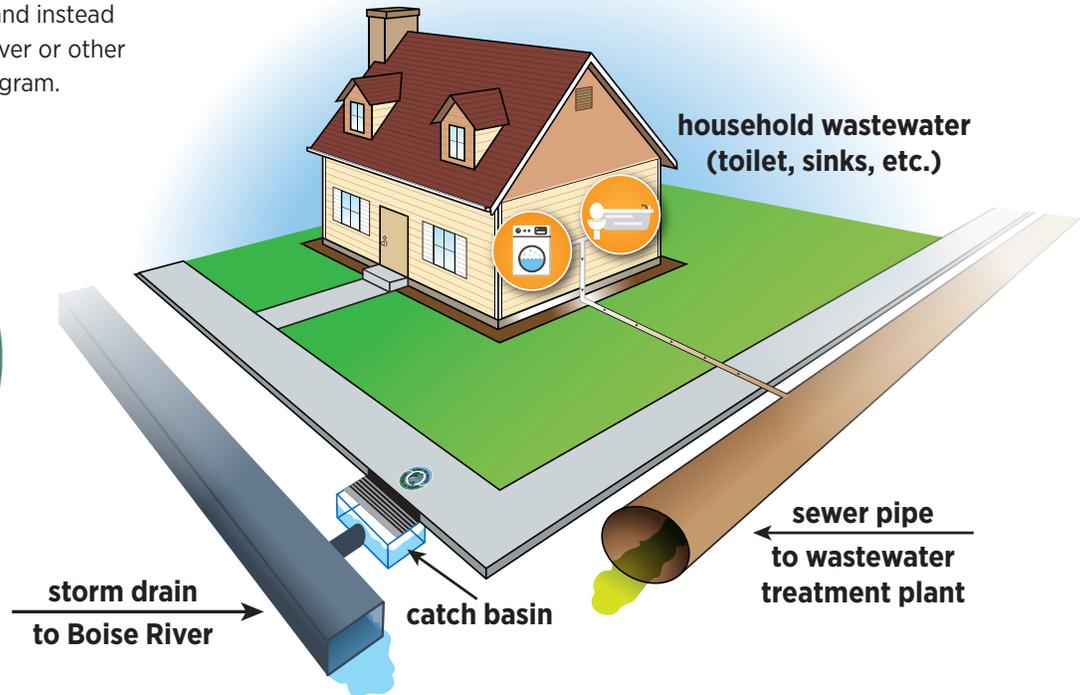
Stormwater runoff is a major cause of pollution in urban areas. When rain falls or snow melts and cannot infiltrate into the ground, runoff is generated from paved or impervious surfaces. This runoff is collected in the storm drainage system.

There are many types of stormwater pollutants including litter, oils, grease, chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, sediment and bacteria. These pollutants come from many sources, primarily generated by the activities of people on our lands. For example, excess nutrient pollution can be generated from residential or agricultural areas when too much fertilizer is used on lawns or crops. Pollutants like litter or oil and grease can flow to the storm drainage system from roadways or parking lots.

It is important to remember that in the Boise area, the storm drainage system is separate from the sanitary sewer system. The storm drainage system does not flow to a treatment plant and instead discharges directly into the Boise River or other local waterways as shown in the diagram.



This storm drainage inlet, also known as a catch basin, collects runoff from a street in Downtown Boise.

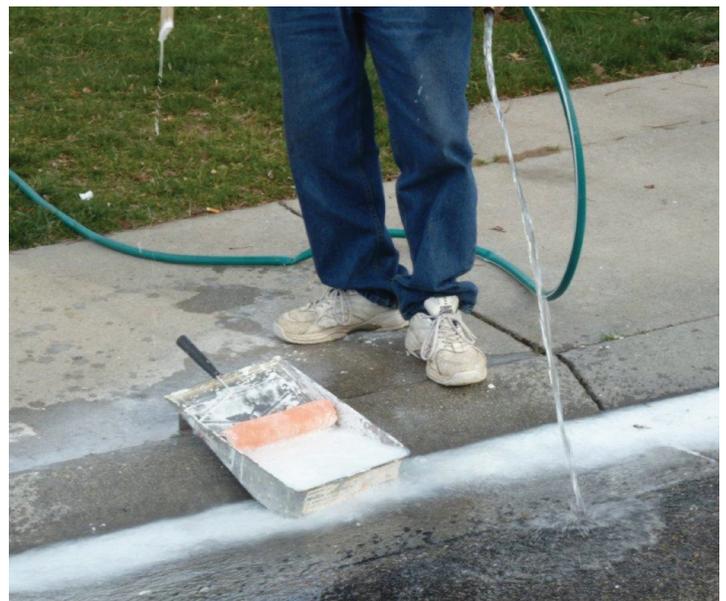


STORMWATER REGULATIONS

The Partners for Clean Water are regulated by Federal Clean Water Act regulations that require implementation of various measures to prevent stormwater pollution and improve the quality of our surface waters.

Municipal Stormwater ordinances and requirements prohibit the discharge of non-stormwater flows to the storm drainage system. Mobile business operators must ensure that any discharge or flow from their operations do not enter the storm drainage system. Violations of stormwater ordinances and requirements can result in civil or criminal penalties. But more importantly, violations can harm our waters and the environment. These violations are called “illicit discharges”.

In the Lower Boise River watershed, Boise, Garden City and the Ada County Highway District have enacted regulations to prevent Illicit Discharges to the storm drainage system. These regulations can be reviewed on the Partners for Clean Water website partnersforcleanwater.org



Paint disposal into a gutter, as shown in this picture, is not permitted and is an illicit discharge to the storm drainage system.

MOBILE BUSINESSES ENHANCED EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Implementing pollution prevention practices is important for all mobile businesses. The following Mobile Businesses have been selected by the Clean Water Partners to receive enhanced public education and outreach on stormwater pollution prevention.

Mobile Vehicle Washing

Vehicle washing activities must comply with applicable regulations and cannot cause a discharge to the storm drainage system. Ideally, vehicles will be washed indoors in a location with floor drains connected to the sanitary sewer system to capture wash wastewater. If indoor washing is not viable, a storm drain **inlet protection device** should be used. An inlet protection will trap runoff before it enters the storm drain system and allow it to be collected and discharged properly to the sanitary sewer system.



Samples of Inlet Protection Devices. Photos courtesy of Ertec Environmental Systems.



Mobile Cleaning or Pressure Washing

Power/Pressure washing activities can generate pollution from the discharge of waste water. If chemicals are used in washing activities, discharges can be particularly harmful to our waters. These activities must comply with all applicable regulations and cannot cause a discharge to the storm drainage system.

There are several best management practices for power/pressure washing activities. Cleaning surface with dry methods, such as sweeping or by using absorbents should be considered. Where surfaces cannot be cleaned with dry methods alone, it is important to minimize the amount of water used during washing. Also, chemicals should be used only when necessary during washing operations. If washing activities result in any discharge, storm drain inlet protection devices must be used so that waste water can be captured and properly disposed.

Mobile Carpet Cleaning

Similar to vehicle and power washing, mobile carpet cleaning operations can generate pollution from the discharge of process waste water. This discharge, collected during the carpet cleaning extraction process, must be disposed properly. Prior to disposal, carpet fibers and other solids should be removed and disposed in the trash so that they do not cause sewer clogs. Employees should also be prepared with a spill clean-up kit, in the instance of an equipment failure on a truck-mounted mobile extraction unit, that could cause a discharge to the storm drain system.



Mobile Pet Care

Due to the chemical content of certain animal related products and medications, a discharge into the storm drain system from mobile pet businesses can be harmful to our waters. Like other mobile businesses, mobile pet care businesses must comply with all applicable regulations and cannot cause a discharge to the storm drainage system. First, mobile pet businesses should consider using organic or all-natural shampoo or other pet care products, this approach helps control pollution at its source. If a mobile pet business conducts activities inside a van or truck, the vehicle should be designed with adequate wastewater storage facilities to ensure that capacity is available for storing wastewater and disposing it properly.



POLLUTION PREVENTION PRACTICES FOR MOBILE BUSINESSES

The following pollution prevention practices, also known as Best Management Practices or BMPs, are applicable to all Mobile Businesses:

Employee Training

The most effective tool to prevent pollution is knowledge. Training information and programs allow employees to complete their job duties effectively and prevent pollution. Training programs should identify key business activities that have the potential to generate pollution. Once those activities have been identified, employees should understand the methods necessary to prevent pollution. The development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), written guidelines that identify methods for completing key business tasks and pollution prevention procedures, are helpful to support and reinforce training topics.



Training programs should be customized to meet the needs of each business. These programs can be developed in-house or by using other pre-developed, commercially available training programs.

Water Usage

When possible, mobile businesses should adjust their operations to use cleaning methods that do not use water such as sweeping. If water is needed, please use as little as possible. Additional water usage will increase the potential for pollution.

Detergent and Chemical Use

It is important to follow labeling and usage directions for all detergents and chemicals. Using biodegradable and non-toxic products is helpful, but remember that even these types of products can cause pollution. Reductions in the amount of cleaners, detergents and chemicals helps to control pollution at the source.

Mobile Business Equipment

Proper maintenance of mobile business equipment is critical to good operations. Equipment such as hoses, water recovery tanks, seals, valves and other similar items should be checked frequently and maintained as needed. Mobile business operators should be prepared to address equipment failures; failing equipment does not excuse illicit discharges to the storm drainage system.

Spills

Mobile businesses must implement measures to prevent spills. Hazardous materials should be stored properly in their original containers with appropriate re-sealable caps or lids. When possible, perform transfers of hazardous materials indoors or under-cover, in locations where a potential spill cannot reach the storm drain system. If there is a spill, never hose it down for clean-up, instead keep an absorbent powder or spill clean-up kit.

Storm Drain Protection

Mobile businesses should provide protection for storm drains as an additional measure of pollution prevention. Impermeable barriers, made from materials like heavy duty vinyl, are available for purchase through various commercial vendors. If any wastewater is collected by the storm drain barrier, it should be vacuumed and properly disposed.

Disposal

In general, it is acceptable to dispose of mobile business wastewater to the sanitary sewer system by draining the waste water to a utility sink, toilet or other appropriate connection to the sewer system. No wastewater from a mobile business can be discharged to a storm drain or sewer. If mobile business activities generate stormwater runoff, the operator must block adjacent storm drains with a storm drain protection barrier, collect the water and dispose properly. If you have any questions about proper disposal, don't hesitate to contact the appropriate Partners for Clean Water representative.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Stormwater Pollution Hotline – Boise, Garden City and the Ada County Highway District

(208) 395-8888

Partners for Clean Water Website (includes staff contact information)

partnersforcleanwater.org

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

www.epa.gov/npdes/national-menu-best-management-practices-bmps-stormwater#edu

Stormwater Education Toolkit

www.stormwater.ucf.edu/toolkit

City of Bellingham, WA – Stormwater University Pollution Prevention Tips

www.cob.org/services/environment/stormwater/Pages/swu-pollution-prevention-tips.aspx

City of Newport Beach, CA – Business Stormwater Pollution Prevention

www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/public-works/water-quality-and-conservation/business-stormwater-pollution-prevention

Keep it Clean Partnership (Colorado) – Stormwater Protection

www.keepitcleanpartnership.org/pollution-prevention/business/

Washington Department of Ecology – Public Education and Outreach Materials

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/resources/PERMITTEEproducts.html

San Diego, CA – Best Management Practices for Mobile Businesses

www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/stormwater/pdf/jurmpapp11.pdf

Bay Area Stormwater Management Association

basmaa.org