

Cities like Durham are required by law to monitor stormwater and stop pollution sources

This federal permit is called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES permit. It requires the City to have a program to keep stormwater as clean as possible. It helps protect local water used for drinking, fishing, and swimming.

Durham was issued its first NPDES permit in 1995. The Water Quality unit of Public Works carries out many parts of the City's stormwater management program.

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BEST PRACTICES FOR THE LANDSCAPING INDUSTRY

STORMWATER POLLUTION
PREVENTION





Protecting Our Water

Storm drains lead right to our creeks and streams. Landscaping practices like mowing, leaf blowing, and chemical application can enter the storm drain system and pollute our streams and drinking water.

Prevent water pollution by following best management practices for landscaping. Remember- it is against the law in Durham for anything but stormwater to go down the storm drain.

FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE APPLICATION

- Always do a soil test to determine how much fertilizer to use
- Adjust fertilizer applicators every time they are used
- Use slow-release and zero Phosphorus fertilizer whenever possible
- Always read and follow directions on the label
- Sweep up extra chemicals from pavement
- Never apply chemicals near the storm drain system, ditches, or water

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

- Store chemicals and equipment under a roof or secure plastic sheet where they are not exposed to stormwater and wind

- Keep soil and yard waste covered and away from pavement and storm drains
- Containers must be stored within secondary containment that will catch any leaks or spills

SPILLS AND LEAKS

- Do NOT hose down spills! Always use absorbent and dry cleanup methods
- When moving chemical or fuel containers, make sure they are secure
- Carry spill cleanup materials on business vehicles
- Keep equipment (hoses, fittings, tanks) in good working order to prevent leaks

YARD WASTE

- Never dump yard waste into storm drains
- Blow leaves and grass clippings back into yards instead of the street where they can clog storm drains and pollute creeks
- Compost yard waste or use the City's yard waste collection program

