

# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LANDSCAPING PROFESSIONALS

Lawn and Garden Maintenance  
Mowing Services  
Landscape Contractors  
Tree and Shrub Services  
Plant Maintenance Services

## Equipment

- Keep landscape maintenance equipment and machinery in good working order.
- Train employees on how to prevent stormwater pollution and acceptable practices on the job.
- Have proper supplies on hand to block storm drains and collect runoff.
- Adjust mower height for the type of grass and season.
- Keep an easily accessible spill kit on site in case of spills or accidental discharges.

### *Only rain down the drain.*

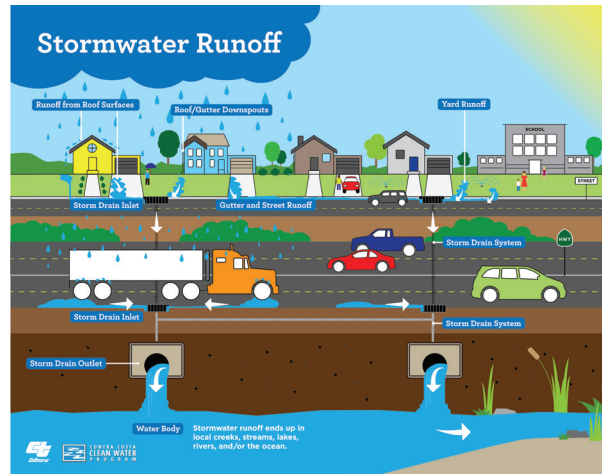
It is illegal to allow any material (liquid or solid) to be dumped into the storm drain system. This includes hosing off pavement into a storm drain, or where it could enter the storm drain system by rainwater or irrigation.

Federal, state and local regulations prohibit this discharge. Illegal discharge is subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

**If you see active discharges into storm drains, catch basins or waterways, call 911.**

**If you see illegal dumping within Contra Costa County, please contact:**

**1-800-NO-DUMPING  
(1-800-663-8674)**



The storm drain system includes catch basins, inlets, culverts and piping that are directly connected to our creeks and waterways. Stormwater is not treated. Litter, plant debris, chemicals, and concrete washout that enter the storm drain system flow into our creeks and waterways.

## Questions?

**If you have questions about the proper BMPs for landscaping and stormwater pollution prevention, please contact the Contra Costa Clean Water Program at:**

[www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org)

255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553-4897  
p. 925.313.2360 f. 925.313.2301

Para una copia de este folleto en español, por favor comuníquese con el Programa de Agua Limpia de Contra Costa al 925-313-2360.



Do your part to prevent your landscape practices from harming our waterways by keeping all debris and landscape runoff out of the storm drain system.



CONTRA COSTA  
**CLEAN WATER**  
PROGRAM



**Protect Every Drop**  
Clean Creeks Start With Clean Streets

## Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers

- Obtain appropriate licenses for pesticide applications, pest control and pesticide uses. For more information, contact California Department of Pesticide Regulation at [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov).
- When possible, use less toxic alternatives. For more info visit <http://ourwaterourworld.org>.
- Consider non-chemical solutions such as weeding by hand, amending with compost or mulch, choosing native and drought-tolerant plants.
- Use chemicals as directed on labels. Prepare only the amount that you need. Spot treat areas if possible.
- Use pesticides if there is a pest problem instead of on a regular, preventative schedule.
- If needed, apply chemicals on non-irrigation days or when there is no predicted rainfall or high winds for the following 48 hours.



*Proper irrigation waters plants; not sidewalks.*

## Hardscaping and Concrete Management

- Conduct grading and excavation work during dry weather.
- Sweep or use dry-clean up methods.
- Wash out trucks or equipment so that wash water is contained and treated.
- Collect concrete washout and solid waste in properly labeled, secure containers and transport for proper disposal.
- Store materials under cover, away from drainage areas.



*Example of dry sweeping.*

## Irrigation

- Prevent runoff from irrigation. Runoff can carry landscape chemicals and other pollutants into the storm drain system.
- Regularly inspect and adjust sprinklers. Replace broken heads and repair sprinkler lines as needed.

- Use water-efficient irrigation systems such as drip irrigation or microspray.
- Contact your local water authority regarding applicable water conservation regulations and restrictions.

## Plants and Vegetation Management

- Keep hardscaped areas, storm drain system and creeks free of landscaping debris.
- Grass cycle on lawns and rake leaves into an area of the landscaping where they can decompose on site.
- When removing plant material, store securely for transport or use onsite organics collection.
- Become a Rescape Qualified Professional. To find out how, visit [ReScapeCA.org](http://ReScapeCA.org).



*Properly tarped loads prevent flyaway material.*