

Douglas and Sarpy Counties

Helping to Protect Our Metro Lakes Best Management Practices for Businesses



Every day, harmful pollutants make their way into our metro lakes endangering the plants and animals that live there. Rain and water from other activities washing over parking lots, sidewalks and streets can carry pollutants into our storm drain system—taking them directly into our metro lakes.

When you use toxic substances outdoors, you may contribute to the problem without knowing it. This problem, known as urban runoff, is a serious cause of water pollution for urban lakes.

Restaurants, hotels, schools, churches, auto shops, small businesses, day care centers, other residential care facilities, offices, and government agencies often use toxic chemicals outdoors—for cleaning, painting, controlling pests, maintaining vehicles, and so on. By using Best Management Practices (BMPs), you will be helping to protect our metro lakes, improve worker health and safety and contribute to a cleaner environment.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Reduce the use of toxic materials—if possible switch to safe substitute products
- Maintain business vehicles—recycle used oil, antifreeze; check for and repair leaks
- Clean up automotive leaks or spills with rags, old newspapers, dry absorbent materials—DO NOT USE WATER TO HOSE AWAY OR CLEAN UP SPILLS
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures to control insects
- Control soil erosion—use mulches, plants to prevent soil erosion
- Use native, drought tolerant plants in landscapes
- Dispose of hazardous substances properly
- Clean up litter and wastes on premises—sweep, collect and dispose
- DO NOT dump paint, toxic chemicals, cleansers, wash water into storm drains

Whatever goes into a storm sewer drain, travels directly into a metro lake.

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