

Building Homes Without Harming Metro Lakes



Housing developments near Omaha metro lakes mean construction and development activities that pose a potential for nonpoint source (runoff) pollution for the lakes. Runoff pollution can enter the lakes directly or indirectly through storm water drains. Stormwater drains lead directly to the lakes. All the metro lakes are being impacted by runoff pollution, specifically sediment and nutrients.

Improper erosion and sediment control during construction can result in large volumes of sediment entering a lake. Sedimentation has a negative impact on water quality and aquatic habitat. Runoff from building sites has the potential to also carry excessive levels of nutrients, bacteria, oil and grease, heavy metals, trash and debris into storm drains. All pose a hazard to water quality, aquatic organisms and habitat. Building contractors, subcontractors, site supervisors and workers play an important role in protecting lakes during the construction phase.

WHATEVER GOES INTO A STORM DRAIN, TRAVELS DIRECTLY INTO A LAKE.

Best Management Practices for Home Construction

- Develop an erosion and sediment control plan during the construction phase.
- Construct and maintain silt fences to control erosion.
- Route clean water around the site.
- Protect storm drain inlets during construction.
- Designate one area for parking, vehicle refueling and routine equipment maintenance.
- Keep materials out of the rain--cover exposed piles of soil or construction materials.
- Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces--use trash cans and recycling receptacles.
- Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately.
- Never hose down dirty pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled.
- Cover and maintain dumpsters--pick up debris.
- Wash out cement trucks and mixers only in designated washout areas where the water will flow into containment ponds.
- After driveway or sidewalk construction, don't wash fines down the driveway or into streets or storm drains.
- Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a landfill.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never bury waste material.
- Make sure portable toilets are in good working order--check for leaks.
- Clean sediment, debris, trash etc. from the building site, roads, driveways and storm drains at the end of each day.
- Stabilize construction entrance.
- Don't dump excess paints, solvents etc. on the ground or in the storm drains.
- Join a lake watershed council.

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