

Preventing Stormwater Pollution for School Facility Staff

For assistance on stormwater guidelines, contact the Department of Energy and Environment's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Clara Elias, at clara.elias@dc.gov or 202-645-4231.

When it rains, stormwater runs off roads, rooftops, basketball courts, parking lots, and other hard surfaces, carrying pollution into our local streams and rivers. Two thirds of the District of Columbia drains directly into local streams with little or no treatment. Stormwater pollution damages Rock Creek and the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and makes them unsafe for fishing and swimming and harms wildlife. Using these simple practices will help build a cleaner, safer future for the District of Columbia and its youth.




Trash and other pollution flow down our storm-drains and out into local streams, including the District's Pope Branch (above).

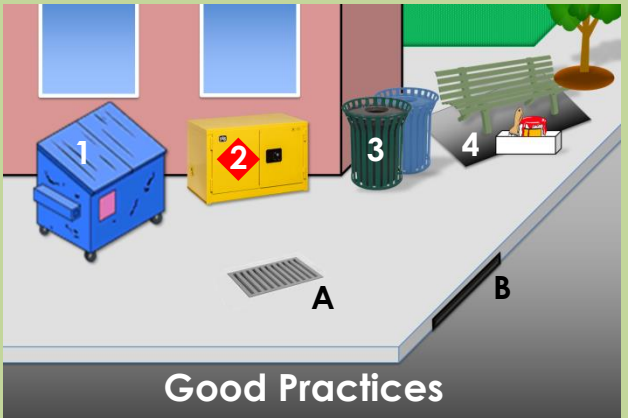
Types of stormwater pollution found at school include:

- Trash
- Dirt
- Paints & solvents
- Pet waste
- Rust
- Gas & oil
- Paint chips
- Wash water
- Road salt & other deicers
- Liquids leaking out of dumpsters
- Pesticides, fertilizers, & herbicides

Find which waterway your school drains to at <http://geospatial.dcgis.dc.gov/watershedfinder>



Bad Practices



Good Practices

1. Keep dumpsters and carts closed to stop rain from getting inside and wind and pests from taking trash out and causing litter. Do not pour liquids into dumpsters and carts because it can leak.
2. Follow your material handling and toxic waste disposal procedures to store and dispose of materials. Gasoline should be stored within a locked flammable storage cabinet.
3. Report overflowing litter bins to 311 to prevent litter from getting into the storm drains. DCPS staff should contact Susan Riley, and charter school staff their building management if your dumpsters or carts need to be serviced. See the *Trash & Recycling Section on the reverse for more contact information.*
4. Spills and leaks can happen if you are not careful. Paint should be kept in a tray when it is being used, and a tarp put down before painting to capture drips. Call 911 if you have a spill that reaches the storm drain.

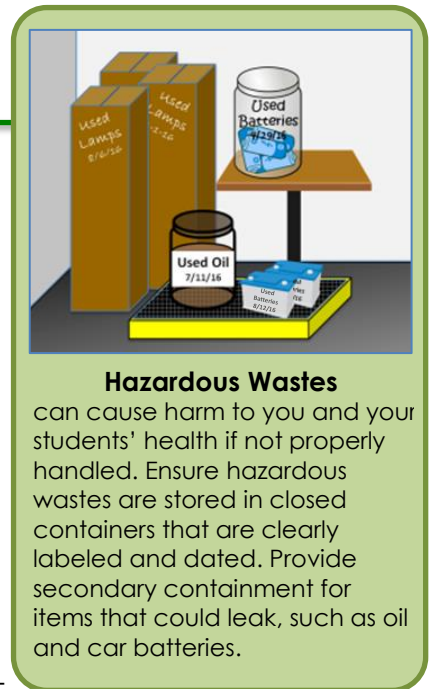
A & B are common types of storm drains in the District.

Steps to Prevent Pollution at School

Follow these simple guidelines to ensure your school is a part of a greener and cleaner District.

Good Housekeeping

1. Keep work areas neat and organized. Clearly label all containers.
2. Regularly pick up trash and other debris from the grounds. Report full or over-flowing sidewalk trash and recycling containers to 311 (call or visit 311.dc.gov).
3. Put supplies and materials away when you are done, preferably indoors and in closed containers.
4. Sweep or clean up any dirt, grease, trash, and other spills and leaks in your work area. Never hose down a spill or leak; use paper towels, kitty litter, or a spill kit instead to clean up without water.
5. Never pour liquids, throw trash, or sweep dirt into storm drains – most drain into local streams with little or no treatment.



Trash & Recycling

1. Always keep lids to outdoor dumpsters and carts closed unless they are in use.
2. Do not overfill outdoor waste dumpsters and carts. DCPS staff should report the issue by sending an email or texting the name and address of school and description and/or photo of problem to Susan Riley (202-658-8163 or susan.riley@dc.gov). Charter schools should alert their building management.
3. Dispose of all wastes in the right place, and consult with your supervisor to learn how to properly dispose of all chemicals and hazardous materials. More guidance can be found at <http://doee.dc.gov/service/hazardous-waste>

Materials & Equipment

1. Keep your storage containers labeled and store them out of the rain and where they will not be spilled. If any containers are stored outside, makes sure they are waterproof.
2. Sweep loading docks regularly and avoid loading or unloading in the rain.
3. Immediately call 911 when there is a large or hazardous materials spill.
4. Don't wash cars or equipment outside where the wash water could go into a storm drain. Instead wash them indoors or take them to a District-operated car wash, such as the one at the 1835 West Virginia Ave NE fueling facility.

Facility Maintenance

1. When scraping, sanding or painting, follow safe lead paint removal techniques and use a drop cloth or tarp to catch chips, drips and other waste. Sweep up any paint chips or other waste at the end of the day, and never pour paint brush wash water down the storm drain, in the grass, or on a parking area.
2. Keep materials that could spill, such as liquids and powders, in a tray or bucket when using them outside. This prevents them from accidentally spilling on the ground. Do your work on a drop cloth or tarp whenever possible.
3. If you need to apply road salt or other types of deicers, follow the directions on the product's packaging and only use enough to get the job done. Over salting can make roads and walkways slippery.