

## **STORMWATER QUALITY FOR LANDSCAPING BUSINESSES**

The Town of Suffield, under the Stormwater Management Program, is participating in educating the public in ways in which their actions can help reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff that enters our waterways. Storm drain systems are designed to collect stormwater-rain and snow melt- and release it untreated into watercourses. Pollutants are accumulated in stormwater as rain and snowmelt flow across surfaces such as lawns, roads, and parking lots picking up substances such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil and antifreeze. Contaminants degrade the quality of drinking water sources and fish and wildlife habitats.

As a way of helping to educate the public, the Town of Suffield, has developed a list of Best Management Practices (BMP) that your business can utilize to help ensure a safe work environment and better maintain the quality of local water sources for years to come.

### **MATERIAL STORAGE**

- Store all containers holding powder and liquid materials under cover to protect from rain and snow.
- Use secondary containment devices or construct dikes/curbs to contain any possible leaks.
- Keep containers closed and secure.
- Store soil and mulch piles in contained areas where they cannot be washed into the storm drainage system. When these materials are transported for use on site, store them on the lot and out of the street where they won't be washed into the street and storm drain system with overspray from irrigation stormwater.

### **FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES**

- Whenever possible, use chemical alternatives, or low-toxic chemicals.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for safe use and disposal.
- Use the smallest amount necessary.
- Apply at optimal times for the specific application.

### **EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE**

- Inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks regularly. Fix problems as soon as possible.
- When draining fluids, use a drip pan and/or funnel to prevent any spills.
- Keep a cleanup kit of safety equipment and absorbent material, such as kitty litter or sand for spills.
- Never hose down streets or sidewalks to clean. Use a broom and properly dispose of sweepings.

### **CLEANERS AND SOLVENTS**

- Read labels carefully and follow directions.
- Dispose of unused portions properly.
- Follow good cleanup practices.
- Whenever possible, purchase water based cleaning products. Look for products labeled "non-toxic", "non-petroleum based", "ammonia-free", "phosphate free", and/or "readily biodegradable".

