

STORMWATER QUALITY FOR BUILDING AND REMODELING

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.

Use soil and erosion sediment control practices:

- Minimize removal of existing vegetation.
- Divert runoff around disturbed soils.
- Reduce traffic on disturbed soils.
- Request contractors park on paved areas, whenever possible.
- Frequently sweep streets and sidewalks of soil and deposit back on the site.
- Revegetate as soon as possible using native seed mix, mulch and tackifier.
- Construct a gravel stabilized site access.
- Sweep paved surfaces, rather than hosing down or using blowers.
- Use sediment control devices including silt fence, inlet protection, sediment basins, diversion ditches and swales to minimize soil that leaves the site.

Maintain good housekeeping practices while work is underway:

- Properly store and dispose of materials such as paints and solvents.
- Properly contain and dispose of wash water, sweepings and sediments.
- Use non-toxic substitutes for chemicals whenever possible.
- Inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks regularly and fix problems as soon as possible.
- Keep a cleanup kit of safety equipment and absorbent material, such as kitty litter or sand, in case a spill does occur. Never hose down an area to clean up after a spill.
- Control litter by sweeping and picking up trash on a regular basis.
- Cover dumpsters and replace leaking ones.