

STORMWATER QUALITY FOR 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.

CLEANING

- Use non-toxic substitutes for chemicals whenever possible.
- Control litter by sweeping and picking up trash regularly.
- Sweep shop floors, materials processing and storage areas, access roads, parking lots and sidewalks. Do not wash down with hose.
- Properly contain and dispose of wash water, sweepings and sediments.

MATERIAL STORAGE

- Prevent spills from entering storm drains and discharge points.
- Keep outdoor storage containers in good condition.
- Use secondary containment measures for materials and wastes storage areas.

SPILLS

- Clean up spills immediately to minimize safety hazards and prevent spills from reaching a storm drain inlet.
- Use absorbent materials to clean small spills rather than hosing down the area. Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.

LANDSCAPE

- Whenever possible, use chemical alternatives, or low-toxic chemicals.
- Use landscaping pesticides and fertilizers only when needed.
- Avoid over-watering to prevent excess runoff.