



Connecticut Department
of Environmental Protection

Environmental Best Management Practices Guide for Small Businesses



Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106
<http://www.ct.gov/dep>

Best Management Practices for Stormwater, Pesticides & Waste

The objective in stormwater protection is to prevent pollution from entering our groundwater and surface water.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific practices that are capable of preventing and minimizing ground-water and surface water pollution as a result of day-to-day activities in small businesses such as garden centers, retail home improvement centers, pool supply centers and hardware stores.

Did You Know...

Stormwater is the number one cause of polluted runoff water in the streams and rivers?

Surface waters are where we play, relax, enjoy wildlife, and even get our drinking water.

However, the quality of surface water is threatened by common materials that get carried to them with every rain.

Fortunately, the health of the region's surface water can be improved by working together to reduce the amount of polluted stormwater reaching our treasured waterways for today and future generations.

For more information or assistance, please contact the following DEP programs:

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Pesticide Management Program (860) 424-3369

Stormwater Management Program (860) 424-3003

Waste Management Program (860) 424-3023

The DEP is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. In conformance with the ADA individuals with disabilities who need information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call (860) 424-3051 or (860) 418-5937 and make their request to the AAO staff person. **Requests for accommodations to attend meetings and/or educational programs, sponsored by the DEP, must be made at least two weeks prior to the program date.**

These requests may be made directly to

*Marcia Z. Bonitto, ADA Coordinator, via e-mail:
Marcia.Bonitto@ct.gov*



Stormwater BMPs

Stormwater pollution can lead to numerous environmental problems that may affect human health. Stormwater pollution comes in many varieties. Incorrect management practices can result in the release of contaminants such as toxic chemicals, sediments, fertilizers and oil and grease to nearby waterways.

- Store both products and wastes that can pollute stormwater indoors or under shelter. These materials include: pressure-treated lumber, pesticides, fertilizers, oils, fuels, paints, thinners, solvents and pool chemicals.
- Clean catch basins and other stormwater treatment devices on a regular basis.
- Always keep dumpster lids closed with drain plugs intact.
- Maintain speedi-dry, absorbent pads and other spill control equipment near catch basins and drains and ready for use in case of a spill.
- Never dump anything down the storm drain. This includes wash water from outdoor product display areas, garden areas, loading docks, parking lots, indoor floor areas, and vehicle or equipment maintenance areas.
- Store bagged goods and liquid goods as far as possible from floor drains, trenches or stormdrains to minimize risk of releasing spilled materials.
- Ripped and/or damaged packages of fertilizers and soils should either be covered or repackaged to prevent material from entering the environment. (See Pesticide & Fertilizer BMPs for additional details.)
- Outside areas should be routinely swept, shoveled and cleaned of litter. Do not wash outdoor areas with water or other solutions.
- Limit plant watering so excess water does not enter the storm drain. Group plants with similar water needs together to improve watering efficiency and avoid excess watering.



- If your site contains more than five acres of impervious surface, you are required to register for a DEP stormwater permit and develop a stormwater plan.
- If your facility has 42,000 gallons of underground petroleum storage or 1,320 gallons of aboveground petroleum storage, you may be required to develop a spill, prevention, control and countermeasure plan.

Pesticide & Fertilizer BMPs

Pesticides (including herbicides and insecticides) and fertilizers must be properly applied, stored, handled and disposed of to prevent contamination of surface water and groundwater. Misuse of pesticides and fertilizers can result in adverse impacts to aquatic life, even at low concentrations.

- Retailers of pesticides must do the following:
 - * *Inform customers purchasing pesticides that signs must be posted to notify the public of the pesticide application.*
 - * *Provide posting signs to customers purchasing outdoor pesticides.*
 - * *Display a sign notifying customers of the posting requirements.*
- The sale of Diazinon (previously one of the most commonly used pesticides) for indoor and non-agricultural uses is banned.
- The sale of Chlorpyrifos products for home, pet, lawn, and garden use is banned.
- Pesticide containers should be labeled with the following information:
 - * *Trade name*
 - * *Active and inert ingredients*
 - * *Precautionary statements*
 - * *Directions for use*
 - * *EPA registration number*
 - * *Storage requirements*
- Containers should be stored in a manner consistent with requirements printed on the label.
- The sale and distribution for homeowner use of chromated copper arsenate (CCA), which is used to protect wood from insect attack and decay, is prohibited. Chemical alternatives to CCA include alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ) and copper boron azole (CBA).
- If a package containing pesticides and fertilizers containing pesticides is damaged to the point where the required information is missing or

illegible, it is misbranded. The package cannot be relabeled by a retailer/distributor or end user. If a package containing pesticides or fertilizers containing pesticides is damaged but the required information is complete and legible, the retailer/distributor or end user can place the package in a clear plastic bag and/or place clear tape on the package to repair the damage. It is acceptable to sell/use the product as long as the label is complete, legible and registered.

- Consider providing for sale and using on-site alternatives to synthetically derived pesticides and fertilizers. Organic landscaping uses a whole systems approach to maintaining grounds without toxic chemicals.

More information about organic products is available from the following sources:

Organic Materials Review Institute is a non-profit organization that determines which input products are allowed for use in organic production and processing according to the USDA.

Safelawns.org is a non-profit organization that has information about natural lawn and grounds care, how-to videos, product recommendations and more.

Waste BMPs

Small businesses that generate less than 220 pounds (about 26 gallons) per month and accumulate no more than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste on-site at any one time and that generate less than 2.2 pounds per month of acutely hazardous waste are considered Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators ("CESQG").

Many small businesses will qualify as CESQGs. The following item should be implemented.

- Perform a hazardous waste determination on all the wastes you generate, and keep records for a minimum of three years.
- A waste manifest should be filled out when shipping hazardous waste to a disposal facility. These manifests should be maintained on site.



- Ensure that your hazardous waste is disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste treatment or disposal facility, or at a household hazardous waste facility (or one-day collection event that is permitted to take CESQG waste) and not disposed of as municipal trash.
- If you hire a waste hauler to take away your waste, be sure that the hauler has a valid EPA Identification number and transporter's permit to haul waste in Connecticut.
- Items such as fluorescent bulbs, batteries, recalled pesticides, and used electronics contain toxic substances. These items must be recycled as Universal Waste and not thrown in the trash or stored outdoors.
- Used oil is oil that is generated by activities such as the maintenance of vehicles and equipment. Used oil must be recycled. It must not be thrown in the trash, and should not be stored outdoors.
 - * *Keep hazardous waste and other contaminants out of your used oil so that it does not have to be handled as a hazardous waste.*
- Containers, including dumpsters, should be closed and in good condition (not leaking, rusted, or bulging).
- Waste containers should be clearly labeled to identify their contents.
- If a waste is determined to be hazardous, the words "hazardous waste" must appear on the container.
- Waste containers should be stored under shelter or indoors and managed in a way that prevents leaks and spills from reaching the environment.
- If flammable or potentially explosive wastes are stored, "No Smoking" signs must be posted.
- Fire extinguishers, spill cleanup materials and emergency contact information should be easily accessible in the event of a spill.
- Remember: if at any time your waste generation or storage amounts increase beyond CESQG levels, you will be required to comply with more stringent regulatory requirements.

Waste Minimization Tips

Waste minimization means finding ways to reduce or eliminate the generation of waste. Some general ways to do this are listed below.

- Eliminate on-site activities that generate waste (e.g., by discontinuing certain services, or subcontracting them out to off-site companies).
- Alter work practices and/or equipment so that you use less raw material. Using less raw material means generating less waste.
- Recycle or reuse materials on-site.
- Switch from hazardous products to non-hazardous ones.
- Some specific waste minimization options for small businesses include:
 - * *Waste Fuel (gasoline, diesel): Send the waste fuel that you generate for recycling (fuel blending) rather than for disposal or incineration. Waste fuels that are recycled in this way are exempt from regulation as hazardous waste.*
 - * *Parts Washing: Switch from a hazardous parts washing solvent (low-flash point mineral spirits, chlorinated solvents) to a non-hazardous one (high-flash point mineral spirits or water-based cleaners).*
 - * *Paints/Solvents: Look into having painting done by off-site contractors. If you must paint on-site, use as little paint and solvent as possible to get the job done. Look into non-hazardous solvents for cleaning up, etc. Reuse solvents by settling out the paint solids, or recycle them in an on-site solvent recycling still. Use water-based paints whenever possible.*
 - * *Rags/Wipes: Use only non-hazardous cleaning agents/solvents for cleanup. Send your rags to an industrial laundry - do not dispose of them in the trash.*
 - * *Raw Products: Excess products that are not sold may become hazardous waste when disposed (e.g., pesticides, pool chemicals). Try not to stock items which are hazardous. If this is not possible, see if the manufacturer will take the material back or if there is someone else who can legitimately use the product.*
 - * *Use or provide for sale recycled content products or materials.*

If you would like a copy of a CESQG Handbook, please call:
 Waste Management Program (860) 424-3023