

## Did you know?

Nearly everyone thinks that water pollution is caused by industry. In the past, most of it was. But today the #1 threat to streams and rivers is from stormwater runoff. Much of this untreated runoff reaches the water through storm drains. Eventually that pollution reaches the Kanawha River.



## It's the Law!

The Clean Water Act administered by the WV DEP and the US EPA establishes permit requirement for municipal discharges.



The City of Charleston is a designated MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) and is required to have a water discharge (NPDES) permit issued and administered by the WV DEP under the guidelines of the US EPA.

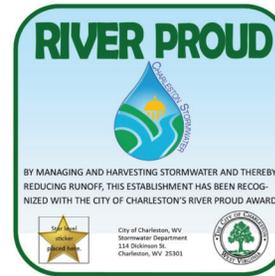
The US EPA requires six minimum control measures to improve stormwater quality:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post Construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping For Municipal Operations and Maintenance



For more information about the Clean Water Act, MS4, and NPDES— go to [www.wvdep.org](http://www.wvdep.org) or [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

Charleston's 'River Proud' Program is an initiative of the Charleston Stormwater Department to recognize the citizens of Charleston who take action to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution by successfully managing the water on their property. Go to our website to find out more!



## STORMWATER DEPARTMENT

114 Dickinson Street  
CHARLESTON, WV 25301  
(304) 348-8106



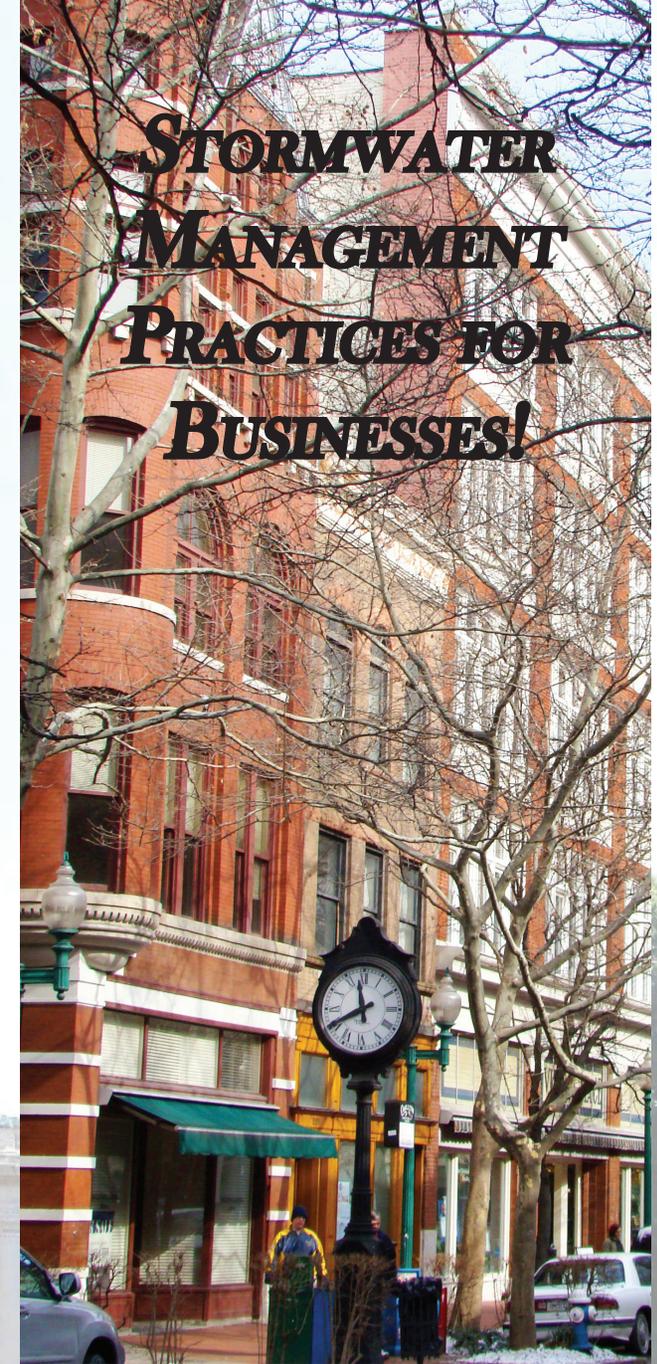
WEBSITE:  
[www.charlestonstormwater.org](http://www.charlestonstormwater.org)

FACEBOOK:  
CharlestonStormwater



EMAIL:  
[swm@cityofcharleston.org](mailto:swm@cityofcharleston.org)

This Brochure has been distributed to you by the City of Charleston, West Virginia in an effort to increase your knowledge of our stormwater management program and educational efforts.



# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR BUSINESSES!



Stormwater Department  
Charleston WV

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater originates from falling precipitation which flows across the ground or impervious surfaces when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water soaks into the ground, flows into our storm drains. These are the drains seen at street corners or low points on the sides of streets. The water



flowing into these drains is called stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is a concern because of the pollutants it may carry as it is conveyed



to the nearest body of water—such as a local stream, pond, or river. Unlike water that goes into our sanitary sewer system—from our showers and toilets, stormwater is not treated before being discharged to our surrounding water bodies.



## Why Is Stormwater Pollution a Problem?

Stormwater pollution can harm fish & other aquatic wildlife, kill native vegetation, destroy aquatic habitats, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant. Furthermore, the nutrients carried by storm water or released into surface waters through decomposition may cause undesirable algae and vegetative growth. Substances carried by stormwater that are considered to be pollutants are:

- Sediment, trash & debris
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals
- Soap and paint products from outdoor maintenance activities
- Pesticides and fertilizers from lawns and gardens
- Viruses, bacteria, and nutrients from pet waste and failing septic systems



## What Impact Does My Business Have on Stormwater & What Can I do?

### Don't allow wash water to run off

#### premise:

- When you must wash you windows, sidewalks, floor mats or parking lot, you should not discharge the wash water of your property.
- Make sure outside contractors have proper disposal permits, and use drop-cloths for painting and sandblasting. DO NOT let wash water enter the street or storm drains.
- Pour Mop Water into a janitorial or mop sink. Do not pour it onto a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.



Never Pour leftover washwater, oil, floor sweeping or debris into storm drains.

- DO NOT dump any sweepings or liquid waste on the ground, in the street, or into the storm drain. *Even Materials that seem harmless—like latex paint, mop water, or biodegradable cleaners—can damage the environment.*
- Locate the storm drains on or near your property. Do not allow material to flow in these drains.
- Be proactive and examine your business for sources of pollution.

### Properly maintain dumpsters:

- Cover dumpsters to prevent insects, animals and rainwater from getting in.
- Keep the area around the dumpster clear of trash and debris and do not overflow it.
- Make sure cleanout plug has not been removed.
- Call your trash hauler to replaced a leaking dumpster.



### Pick up litter and sweep parking lots and sidewalks:

- Sweep sidewalks and parking lots, Refrain from using a water hose to clean them.
- Litter from shoppers can be reduced by providing and maintaining trash cans and butt collectors. If you see that you have a problem, used signage as a reminder.
- Use accepted Dry methods for spill cleanup (e.g. sweeping compound, cat litter, etc.).



### Don't over water landscaping shrubs and grass:

- DO NOT over irrigate grounds. Excess watering of grass and ornamental shrubs not only weakens them and wastes water; it also sends landscaping chemical and nutrients down into our storm drains.
- Use a professional landscaping service to periodically test soil and determine the nutrients needed to maintain a healthy lawn. Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.



### Training Employees:

- Train all employees upon hiring and annually thereafter on proper methods for handling, storing and disposing of waste. Make sure that all employees understand storm water discharge prohibition and waste water discharge requirements.
- Train employees and contractors in proper spill containment and cleanup. The employee should have the tools at hand to begin cleaning up a spill should on occur.
- Train employees to identify and report non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping incidents.
- Post storm water posters in training room to aid in educations of employees.

