

Storm Water Management Program

What is Storm Water?

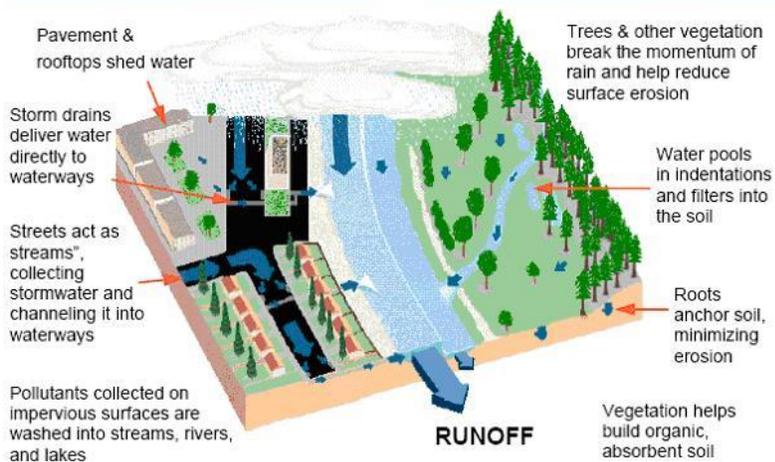
Storm water is rainfall or melted snow that runs off impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, streets, sidewalks, and parking lots. Impervious, or hard, surfaces prevent the storm water from naturally soaking into the ground, where the soil would filter out pollutants. As it flows, storm water picks up pollutants from these surfaces. Common pollutants include vehicle exhaust products, brake and tire dust, oil and grease, sediment, salt fertilizers and pesticides, pet waste, and litter. Because storm water is untreated, these pollutants enter our waterways.

DEVELOPED LANDS

Rain pours more quickly off of city and suburban landscapes, which have high levels of impervious cover

NATURAL LANDS

Trees, brush, and soil help soak up rain and slow runoff in undeveloped landscapes



Regulatory Background

The second phase, the Storm Water Phase II Final Rule, is the next step in EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the Nation's water resources from polluted storm water runoff. The Phase II Final Rule was published in the Federal Register on December 8, 1999 (64 FR 68722). The Phase II program expands the Phase I program by requiring additional operators of MS4s in urbanized areas and operators of small construction sites, through the use of NPDES permits, to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff.

The Phase II Rule defines a small MS4 Storm Water Management Program as a program comprising six elements, that, when implemented in concert, are expected to result in significant reductions of pollutants discharged into receiving bodies.

MS4 Program Elements

The six MS4 program elements, termed "minimum control measures," include:

- Public Education and Outreach
 - Distribute educational materials and perform outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted storm water runoff discharges can have on water quality.

- Public Participation/Involvement
 - Provide opportunities for citizens to participate in storm water program development and implementation.
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 - Develop and implement a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system.
- Construction Site Runoff Control
 - Develop, implement, and enforce an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb 1 or more acres of land.
- Post-Construction Runoff Control
 - Develop, implement, and enforce a program to address discharges of post-construction storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas.
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
 - Develop and implement a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Storm Water Runoff Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters;
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams;
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard;
- Compost your yard waste;
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems;
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff;
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway;
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil;
- Pick up after your pet; and
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.