

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to US

The City Of Greeley has two drainage systems – the sanitary sewers and the **storm drains**. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets to the rivers.

Because the system contains no filters or treatment, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to the Cache La Poudre and South Platte Rivers.

Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

The City Of Greeley is required by federal and state law to educate the public and businesses on stormwater concerns. Please join us in our effort to reduce stormwater runoff pollution.

## Doing the Job Right

### *General Business Practices*

- ❑ Follow & maintain sediment & erosion control plan
- ❑ Keep an orderly site and ensure good housekeeping practices are used.
- ❑ Maintain equipment properly
- ❑ Cover materials when they are not in use.
- ❑ Keep materials away from streets, storm drains and drainage channels.
- ❑ Ensure dust control water doesn't leave site or discharge to storm drains.

## Storm Drain Pollution From Construction Activities

Construction sites are common sources of stormwater pollution. Materials and wastes that blow or wash into a storm drain, gutter, or street have a direct impact on local creeks and rivers.

**As a contractor, or site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, you may be responsible for any environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.**

### *Advanced Planning to Prevent Pollution*

- ❑ Schedule excavation and grading activities for dry weather periods. To reduce soil erosion, plant temporary vegetation or place other erosion controls before rain begins.
- ❑ Control the amount of runoff crossing your site (especially during excavation) by using berms or temporary or permanent drainage ditches to divert water flow around the site. Reduce stormwater runoff velocities by constructing temporary check dams or berms where appropriate.
- ❑ Train your employees and subcontractors. Make this brochure available to everyone who works on the construction site. Inform subcontractors about the stormwater requirements and their own responsibilities.

### *Good Housekeeping Practices*

- ❑ Designate one area of the site for auto parking, vehicle refueling, and routine equipment maintenance. The designated area should be well away from streams or storm drain inlets, bermed if necessary. Make major repairs offsite.
- ❑ Keep materials out of the rain – prevent runoff contamination at the source. Cover exposed piles of soil or construction materials with plastic sheeting or temporary roofs. Before it rains, sweep and remove materials from surfaces that drain to storm drains, creeks or channels.
- ❑ Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces. Place trash cans and recycling receptacles around the site to minimize litter.
- ❑ Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately so they do not contaminate soil or groundwater or leave residue on paved surfaces. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible. If you must use water, use just enough to keep the dust down.
- ❑ Cover and maintain dumpsters. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under roofs or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting secured around the outside of the dumpster. Never clean out a dumpster by hosing it down on the construction site.
- ❑ Place portable toilets away from storm drains. Make sure portable toilets are in good working order. Check frequently for leaks.

## ***Materials/Waste Handling***

- ❑ Practice Source Reduction – minimize waste when you order materials. Order only the amount you need to finish the job.
- ❑ Use recyclable materials whenever possible. Arrange pick-up of recyclable materials such as concrete, asphalt, scrap metals and solvents, degreasers, cleared vegetation, paper, rock, and vehicle maintenance materials such as used oil, antifreeze, batteries, and tires.
- ❑ Dispose of all wastes properly. Many construction materials and wastes, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation can be recycled. Materials that cannot be recycled must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste. Never bury waste materials or leave them in the street or near a creek streambed.

## ***Permits***

- ❑ In addition to local grading and building permits, you will need to obtain coverage under the State's General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit if your construction site's distributed area totals 1 acre or more. Information on the General Permit can be obtained from the State Department of Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division, 1-303-692-3500

## **City Of Greeley Numbers:**

Information line main number:

English – 350-9777

Espanol – 350-9595

Environmental Concerns:

- Adopt-A- Street 241
- Air Quality/Odor Complaint 242
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal 246
- Recycling 247
- Sanitation Complaints: Weeds, Rubbish, Junk cars, etc 441
- Drainage – Clogged Stormwater Drain 601
- Drainage – Flooding from rain, runoff or irrigation ditches 602

**To report illegal dumping –  
call 970-336-4074**

**Stormwater  
Management  
Division**

# **General Construction and Site Supervision**

***Best Management Practices for  
the Construction Industry.***



**Who should use this brochure?**

- General Contractors
- Site supervisors
- Inspectors
- Home Builders
- Developers