

Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor

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Janis A. Bobrin, Water Resources Commissioner



In This Month's eMonitor

Up Front:	Welcome to the Community Partners Monthly eMonitor
Topic of the Month:	Pavement Maintenance
Tip of the Month:	Techniques for Maintaining Your Vehicles and Pavement
CPCS News:	New and Renewing Partners
CPCS News:	Upcoming Events

Up Front

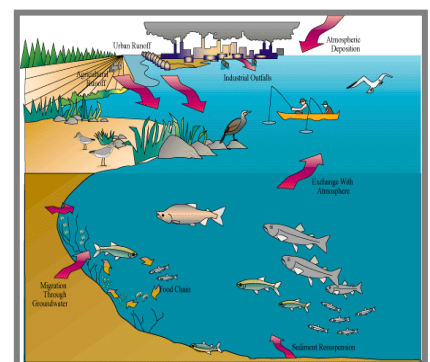
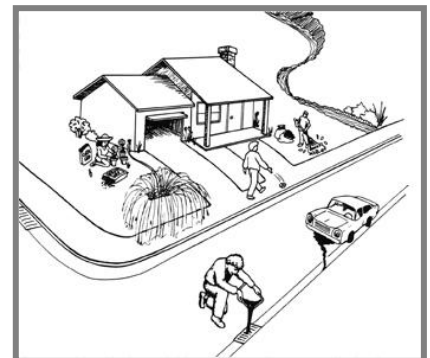
The eMonitor is designed to keep our Partners and friends updated on CPCS, stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

Paved Areas

The incorporation of large paved surfaces is typically a major component in most development projects. However, when rain or other sources of water hit this impermeable service, problems arise. Trash, road salts, vehicle fluids, and many other pollutants can be present on pavement, and these pollutants may be washed off into nearby drainage systems and into our surface waters. This creates an increasing maintenance and clean up cost if drains are clogged or surface waters are contaminated.

Sometimes it is not just rain that causes these pollutants to runoff of paved areas. Many typical cleaning and maintenance activities have the same effect, like wet cleaning of pavements. Runoff can cause pollution of the water we drink, contamination of food taken from surface waters, and destruction of the natural environment. Therefore, it is important that each of us do our part to maintain paved areas in the safest ways possible. There are many approaches and practices that can be used to ensure that any runoff generated on your site does not contain harmful pollutants.

This issue of the eMonitor covers the water quality issues related to paved areas, and it provides tips you implement at your site to help reduce these impacts.



Maintenance: The Do's and Don'ts

Numerous activities can lead to the deposition of pollutants onto paved surfaces. However, there are preventative and proactive measures you can take to avoid and/or address pollution problems.

Be Clean and Leak-Free

Oil, grit, fluids, brake system silt and other pollutants from vehicles and equipment can end up deposited on the pavement below where they are parked. It is important to maintain all equipment in order to prevent any leaks or spills. This also benefits your wallet because fuels and solvents can cause decay and decrease the longevity of your pavement.

Cleaning the Pavement

1) It may seem like common sense, but it is important to clean up any trash or debris in outdoor areas. This litter often carries other pollutants along with it and can end up in storm drains and surface waters if it is not properly cleaned up.

2) If fluid accumulates on pavement, remove it. Ideally use a material that is absorbent and can be reused if necessary.

3) Try to clean outside areas before heavy rains and remove trash and debris in early spring and late fall. (Leaves can actually be a pollutant if they enter surface waters in large quantities)



“Dry Cleaning”

Much of the debris and pollutants that end up in surface waters come from the washing of pavement. If possible, dry sweep and use other methods. Any accumulation of materials should be picked up and disposed of in a timely fashion. Your trash hauler can recommend the correct disposal procedure if you are unsure. If you must wash the pavement, be sure to remove as much residue and/or debris before resorting to water. The use of filters over storm drains could be helpful as well.

Using and Disposing of Maintenance Products

When purchasing any cleaning product for your pavement, vehicles, etc. make sure it is a “safer” choice. Try to buy the least hazardous options.

Most importantly, never put unused products or waste water onto down a storm drain!



Tips for Maintaining Paved Surfaces and Other Areas of Your Property

When cleaning, there are several techniques that you can use to prevent the contamination of storm drains and surface waters.

Turn Down the Pressure



Pressure washing may seem like an effective way to clean building faces and paved surfaces, but it also dislodges many pollutants like paint chips, or dried automotive fluids. If you must pressure wash, try to reduce the amount of pressure used and make an attempt catch or filter out all debris and toxins. However, the best way to clean paved surfaces is dry sweeping.

Stencil Your Storm Drains



Applying “dump no waste” catch basin markers or stenciling the storm drain is a good way to remind employees and site visitors that dumping wastes into drains is not permitted. If you need catch basin markers or a stencil for your parking area, they are provided to Community Partners at no cost. Please call and let us know how many markers you need for your site.

Vehicle Cleaning Techniques



If you must wash a vehicles/equipment at your site, designate a washing site that drains directly to a sanitary sewer. If you can, use eco-friendly cleaners. If not, look for products that are free of phosphates and chlorine or use plain water. Sometimes, the best choice is a water-free wash! Spot cleaning can help you reduce the need for a full wash.

New Concrete Pavement Tip



Don't wash fresh concrete onto a surface that drains to a storm drain or stream. Concrete particulate can cover fish spawning areas or be ingested by aquatic life. If you use concrete, let it harden. Dispose of concrete waste properly with other construction materials and/or debris.

CPCS News

New Community Partners

Welcome to our new partners this month and thank you to our renewed ones. Together we can make a difference to keep Washtenaw County's waterways clean!

New Partners

Select Community Management

Renewing Partners

Cleary University
Briarwood Mall

Arbor Psychological Consultants
Colonial Square Cooperative



On Behalf of Community Partners for Clean Streams and the Water Resources Commissioners Office, We wish you a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season and New Year!



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Contact Us

Community Partners for Clean Streams

705 N. Zeeb Road, PO Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

Michelle J. Bononi, Senior Environmental Planner (734) 222 – 6833

bononim@ewashtenaw.org

Or

Sue Johnson, Environmental Planning Intern (734) 222 – 6813

johnsonse@ewashtenaw.org

<http://drain.ewashtenaw.org>

