

Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



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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.

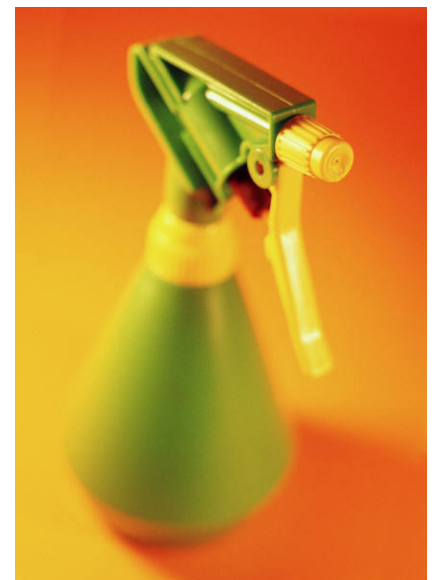
Housekeeping and Water Quality

This issue of the eMonitor focuses on the everyday maintenance products essential to doing business. Many of these products may be harmful to the environment, but can be bought, handled and stored in a more efficient and safe manner. Storing of potentially harmful products is particularly important because of the potential for misuse or a spill.

The safety of your employees, neighbors and the environment depend on proper storage of potentially dangerous substances. Waterways are particularly vulnerable to spills as they are hard to control once they have reached the water. Preventing spills is the most effective way to protect the environment and human health.

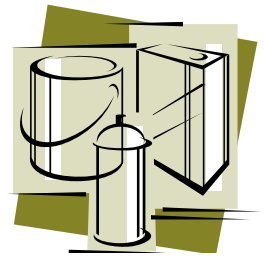
Simple steps like proper labeling of containers can prevent problems and correctly alert hazardous materials handlers in case of an emergency. It is additionally important to provide secondary storage and spill devices like spill trays for hazardous products containers. Measures such as these provide another layer of protection to stormwater and the waterways in Washtenaw County.

In this issue you will find more detailed information about storage and housekeeping to protect the environment, your employees and those around you.



Smart Purchasing

Purchasing only enough products removes the need for storage and is the most effective way to deal with potentially harmful substances that must be stored on site. Choosing products that are less harmful to the environment is another way to prevent unnecessary storage of hazardous items. Many companies adopt a just-in-time ordering strategy so that they only order products when needed, avoiding the need for long-term storage.



Choosing and purchasing products with less packaging prevent waste. Recyclable or reusable containers are also good options to keep items out of the waste stream.

Recycling and Managing Wastes



- Keep areas around dumpsters and other trash/recycling containers clean. This reduces litter, protects the environment and reduces pickup costs.
- Tightly close lids of containers to keep urban wildlife out and trash in.
- If you can't reuse it, recycle it!
- Potentially hazardous materials must meet local, state and federal requirements for disposal. Check with your local governing authority for more specific information.
- Never dump anything down a storm drain! It flows directly and untreated to the nearest waterway. This applies to solid trash as well as liquids and water waste from pressure or vehicle washing.

Storage

- Proper storage of hazardous substances is not only good practice, it is also the law. Substances stored in greater than 5 gallon containers must have secondary containment such as a spill tray or pad. For example, a 55 gallon drum containing used oil should have a spill tray capable of holding 55 gallons in case of an accident in which the entire container "loses its load." Check with your local, state and federal guidelines to ensure you are meeting requirements.
- Many materials stored on site may also be flammable. These materials often require storage in a flame and heat resistant cabinet to protect employees, the facilities and any rescue workers that may arrive in case of an accident or fire.
- Outdoor storage areas should be properly covered to protect against the elements. Items like deicers, spent fuels and oils must be covered as these substances can be susceptible to weather events.



Container Labeling

It is essential that ALL containers are properly labeled at all times. Accidents can occur when items are not identified, particularly if they are in a secondary container. Dangerous situations can arise with the mixing of such substances or the misidentification and use of the item. For example, one Washtenaw County Pollution Prevention Inspector noted a fruit punch container that was filled with red, spent transmission fluid. An employee or visitor could easily mistake the red fluid for juice.

CPCS News

New and Renewing Community Partners

Welcome to our new partners over the last few months and thank you to our renewing ones. Together we can make a difference to keep Washtenaw County's waterways clean!

New Partners

Arbor Psychological Consultants, P.C.
Barrett Paving Materials, Inc.
Kramer-Triad Management, Inc.
City of Ypsilanti
Washtenaw County Road Commission
Whitmore Lake High School



Renewing Partners

Barrett Paving Materials, Inc. – Cherry Hill Facility
Seva Restaurant

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