

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.

The Importance of Waste Management

Trash and other wastes are part of daily life. Most daily activities produce some form of waste, ranging from food scraps to industrial chemicals. This brings up the questions of what is the best way for storing and disposing of waste, and why it is important.

If the correct procedures are not taken when storing wastes, pollutants can leak from stockpiles and waste storage containers. Any pollutants ending up on the ground can both filter into groundwater and/or be picked up by stormwater runoff. This allows the pollutants to make their way into surface waters, causing both harmful environmental and health effects. In order to avoid these issues it is most important to reduce waste storage amounts as much as possible. If this is not a feasible option, then taking the proper steps to ensure safe storage and disposal of waste is necessary.



This issue of the eMonitor covers the importance of waste management, and it provides tips on how to guarantee that your waste is properly stored and disposed of.

Safe Storage Containers and Locations

There are several tips that should be followed to make certain that waste is properly stored.

Choosing Safe Storage Containers

- 1) All storage containers should be in good condition, lined with material that does not deteriorate, be water-tight, rodent proof, and protected from tampering.
- 2) Keep waste products in their original containers or clearly label them. It is important to keep all waste containers from falling or weathering.
- 3) Never mix materials in a single container. This could prevent recycling, greatly increase the cost of disposal, and cause hazardous waste because of the possible harmful interactions between certain chemicals.



Indoor Storage

- 1) Any potential pollutants that are not a health concern should be kept indoors if possible. This keeps containers from weathering and pollutants from spilling and infiltrating the ground.
- 2) All flammable liquids should be in fire rated cabinets. Be aware that the storage of flammable liquids inside could affect your fire insurance rating.

Designing Storage Areas

Indoors

- 1) Convert an existing room into a secondary containment area for a low-cost approach to safe storage.
- 2) Be sure that there are no cracks in the floor or corners of the walls and have door sills that are high enough to contain spills. This ensures that pollutants do not leave the area.



- 3) Design storage areas to completely contain at least 110% of the largest containers total volume.

Outdoors

- 1) Construct covered and paved areas to contain leaks and spills. If this is not possible, then place the storage containers within larger, leak-proof receptacles.
- 2) Building an impermeable berm around outdoor containers could also accomplish the same goals as the previous point.

Managing Your Trash

Here are several tips for managing your waste and other unused materials.

Managing Trash

1) One common source of pollutants in our surface waters come from trash containers that are leaking damp or oily waste. Liquids of any sort should not be directly dumped into a trash receptacle.

2) Trash receptacles and other containers should be placed on concrete surfaces, have tightly closing lids, and assign someone to regularly check the ground around them for leaks and/or spills.



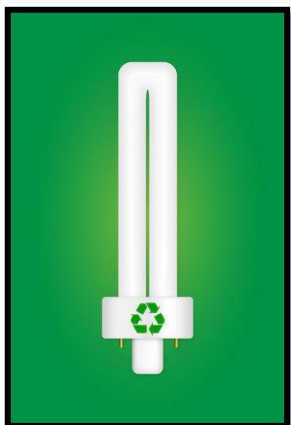
Managing Stockpiles and Uncovered Storage

Uncovered storage allows rainwater to enter into trash receptacles. Water can then mix with hazardous substances like chemicals and/or petroleum. If storage is left uncovered, it is necessary to have any water accumulation tested for contaminants before it is disposed of.

For stockpiles it is best to keep them in a permanent covered structure. However, if this is not possible, it is necessary to find a temporary remedy until a permanent solution can be found. It is also important to assign someone to periodically sweep the area to prevent any materials from escaping and entering surface waters.

Unused Materials

Let's face it unused materials pile up and accumulate. Make sure to check storage areas regularly for any old materials that are unusable. Materials and other trash that have been abandoned should be recycled or reused if possible, and if not, then be properly disposed of. Waste management services can provide information about how to properly dispose of any unused materials and there are available resources for reuse of certain materials at recycleannarbor.org.



Fluorescent Light Bulbs

One material which is often thrown into the trash dangerously is fluorescent light bulbs. These bulbs contain mercury and will break and release it into the environment. Because these types of bulbs require less energy they are the more sustainable choice of lighting. It is therefore very important to recycle fluorescents after they burn out. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality can provide information on the proper recycling methods and locations for taking these bulbs in your area, as well as the following link which provides locations in Washtenaw County:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/dpw/resources/FluorescentRecycling

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

Washtenaw County Facilities Department



Renewing Partners

Huron Chase Board of Directors
Michigan Firehouse Museum
Hudson Mills Golf Course
St. Francis of Assisi Parish and School
I-800-GOT-JUNK

Hudson Mills Metro Park
Maggie's Organics
Angel Food Catering
Native Plant Nursery
Forefront International

Tap Room Annex
Tetra Tech MPS, Inc.

Upcoming CPCS Events

Superior Township Green Fair – May 30th

Salem Township Flag Day – June 6th

Ann Arbor Green Fair – June 12th

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