



# Pollution Solution FACT SHEET 3

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
MUFI HANNEMANN, MAYOR  
ERIC TAKAMURA, P.E., PhD, Director  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 303  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
Environmental Concern Line: 692-5656  
Fax: 692-5520

**O**ahu is home to nearly one million residents who have a direct effect on our island environment and water quality.

## WHAT IS POLLUTED RUNOFF?

When it rains, water flows over streets and yards carrying the pollutants it picks up into storm drains. This significantly impacts the quality of the water because unlike sanitary sewers, anything dumped into the storm drain system flows directly into the nearest stream or drainage channel without any treatment to remove contaminants. Waste oil has the largest environmental impact of all automotive products because it is insoluble in water, persistent, and laced with toxic chemicals and heavy metals.

With more than 20,000 storm drain inlets, and over 670 miles of storm drains to clean and maintain, we need your help.

## WHAT ARE BMPs?

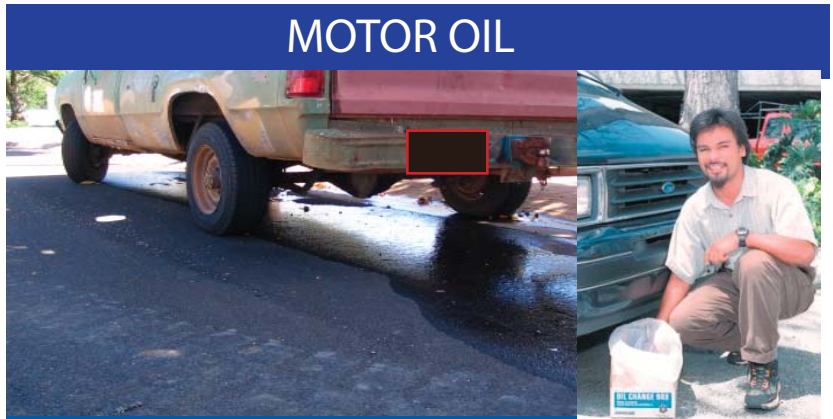
Many simple yet effective methods can be used to help reduce individual runoff. These are called Best Management Practices or BMPs.

Some storm water BMPs can be implemented when first planning and building the home and designing the landscape. Other can be incorporated into day-to-day activities. The cumulative effect throughout an entire watershed can contribute to improved storm water management.

## WHAT ARE POLLUTANTS?

**“Pollutant” means any waste, cooking or fuel oil, waste milk, waste juice, pesticide, paint, solvent, radioactive waste, hazardous substance, sewage, dredged spoils, chemical waste, rock, sand, biocide, toxic substance, construction waste and material, and soil sediment. The term also includes commercial FOG waste as defined under Section 14-5A.1.**

**“Pollution problem” means the discharge of any pollutant into state waters directly or by conveyance through a drainage facility which**



We can have a positive impact on our environment by minimizing runoff that drains into streams, estuaries, and the ocean. Sound environmental practices begin at home and at work. Here are nine simple actions we can incorporate into our daily activities to reduce pollution.

1. **Keep sidewalks, curbs, and gutters clean.**
2. **Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property.**
3. **Gather grass clippings, fallen leaves, shrub trimmings and fruits, and dispose as green waste, or compost your yard trimmings**
4. **If you change your own oil, use an oil change box. The best practice is to have your oil changed by a shop that recycles their waste oil.**
5. **Remove and dispose of pet waste before you leave an area.**
6. **Use water-based paint and discard properly.**
7. **Read the product label on fertilizers and pesticides and use as directed.**
8. **Wash your car on a lawn or gravel drive where the water will soak into the ground. Dispose of leftover soapy water in your bucket into a toilet or sink.**
9. **Keep household cleaning products from becoming hazardous waste.**

## MOTOR OIL

- The best practice to have your oil changed by a shop that recycles their waste oil.
- Use an oil change box if you change your own oil.
- Never use old oil to kill weeds or allow oil to go down a storm drain.
- When changing your oil, do it away from storm drains and have old rags around to respond in case of a spill.
- All junk autos are recycled. To arrange for free auto junking services for your car, call 532-4325 or go to Satellite City Hall. To report abandoned autos, call 733-2530. Do not store used vehicle parts on areas that drain to the storm drain.

Driving less is the best way to prevent pollution. Water quality tests show that polluted runoff comes from heavily traveled highways and streets.

Carpooling or using public transportation are great ways to help reduce the amount of pollution entering the environment.

**Environmental Concern Line 692-5656  
Help protect our waters ... for life!**



Discharging pollutants to the storm drain system is against the law. Violators can be fined up to \$25,000 per violation, per day.

Know the law to avoid fines. The Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to implement water pollution control programs. In an effort to comply with the EPA's mandate, the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12.23(a) Environmental Quality Control - Violation states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii."

### Be A Part Of The Solution

The City and County of Honolulu, working under Federal Clean Water Act Guidelines, has a number of public education programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to eliminate or reduce illegal discharge practices. Existing projects such as the storm drain stenciling, Adopt-A-Stream Workshops, World Water Monitoring Day, and Adopt-A-Block cleanup and monitoring programs, provide opportunities to train a committed neighborhood.

To volunteer call the Environmental Concern Line at 692-5656 or use the online request form at [www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com).



DUMP NO WASTE  
TAKE CARE OF OUR OCEAN

### Report It, Who to Call

As a resident, you can make a difference, both on the job and in your community. When you're at home, share your knowledge with neighbors and family. As you drive to work, report pollution of Oahu's storm drain system.

Call the City Environmental Concern Line: 692-5656  
Storm Water Public Education and Outreach: 692-5208

## Laws and Ordinances

### Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH)

#### Section 14-12.23 Environmental Quality Control--Violation.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water runoff associated with industrial activity into any drainage facility which causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit.

(c) It shall be unlawful to discharge domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater into any drainage facility or any separate storm sewer system.

It also shall be unlawful to discharge commercial cooking oil waste and commercial FOG waste, as defined under Section 14-5A.1, into any drainage facility or any separate storm sewer system.

(d) It shall be unlawful to discharge any storm water on any public right-of-way which creates a drainage problem or causes a nuisance.

(Sec. 16-6.23, R.O. 1978 (1987 Supp. to 1983 Ed.); Am. Ord. 92-122, 96-34, 02-14)

**Sec. 14-20.1 Cleaning of sidewalks.** Every property owner whose land abuts or adjoins a public street shall continually maintain, and keep clean, passable and free from weeds and noxious growths, the sidewalk and gutter area which abuts or adjoins the property owner's property; provided, however, that this requirement shall not apply where maintenance of an abutting sidewalk and gutter may be hazardous to the owner, or where a sidewalk and gutter, although abutting the owner's residential property, are so situated that there is no reasonable access from the property to the sidewalk and gutter. The term "sidewalk" as used herein, shall mean that portion of a street between a curb line or the pavement of a roadway, and the adjacent property line intended for the use of pedestrians, including any setback area acquired by the city for road widening purposes. The term "gutter" as used herein, shall mean that paved portion of a roadway immediately adjacent to the curb or that portion of a roadway in concrete and 12 to 14 inches wide immediately adjacent to the curb. (Sec. 20-4.1, R.O. 1978 (1983 Ed.))



Purchase used oil change box; soak up spilled oil and dispose of appropriately.

