



Pollution Solutions FACT SHEET 1

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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Oahu 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 pollutant 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. Yard debris clogs storm drains, which increases the risk of flooding. Large collections of yard waste can obstruct water flow and cause streambank erosion.

As this organic matter decomposes, it uses up the oxygen needed for aquatic life survival. Decomposing organic matter also creates foul odors. 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.

Environmental Concern Line 768-3300
Help protect our waters ... for life!



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.

9 COMMON BMPs

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 only 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 sink.
9. Keep household cleaning products from becoming hazardous waste.



Discharging pollutants to the storm drain system is against the law. Violations of the Clean Water Act can result in fines of 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 programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to minimize illegal discharge practices. Existing projects include the City's Storm Drain Stenciling Campaign, Earth Month Everyday Clean Water Hero Campaign (teen video, radio), Earth Month Mauka to Makai Clean Water Expo, Pearl Harbor Bike Path Cleanup, Make A Difference Month, World Water Monitoring Day, Adopt-A-Stream/Adopt-A-Block cleanups, Backyard Conservation newspaper supplement (every other year), Good Neighbor Awards, and Adopt-A-Stream/Adopt-A-Block Volunteer Monitoring Workshop, provide opportunities to educate and train an interested and committed neighborhood. To volunteer or donate, call 768-3248.



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 any illegal discharge.

City and County of Honolulu Polluted Runoff Public Outreach: 768-3248
City and County of Honolulu Illegal discharge-already occurred: 768-3247
City and County of Honolulu NPDES permitting questions: 768-3287/768-3242
City and County of Honolulu Potential Flood Problem: 768-7890
City and County of Honolulu Residential Code Enforcement: 768-8280
(Complaint investigations related to zoning and housing code for one and two family dwellings, sidewalk maintenance, vacant lot overgrowth)
Spill Response (Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response)
- Local (HFD): 911 (24/7)
- State (HSERC): 586-4249 (business hours), 247-2191 (after hours)

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www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com
www.opala.org
www.honoluluapp.org
www.honolulu.gov/dfm/index.htm

SIDEWALKS, CURBS AND GUTTERS

- Do keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters around your property clean by sweeping up debris and disposing of it in the trash prior to hosing with plain water. Direct wash water to a planted area so the wash water can soak into the ground.
- Use dry sweep or rags to absorb oily residue followed by washing afterwards with clean water. If runoff cannot be directed to a planted area, wash in an open area, but keep the water on your property and use a storm drain inlet protector, if possible. **Remember, it is a property owner's responsibility to keep these areas clean.**

- The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH), Section 14-20.1 Cleaning and Maintaining Sidewalks, Driveways states, "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 areas."

SOIL AND DEBRIS

- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover or mulching erosion-prone areas.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- Cover excavated materials and stockpiles of soil, sand, or gravel to protect them from rain, wind and runoff. Sweep or scoop up cement washout or concrete dust instead of hosing into streets, gutters or storm drains.
- Do not dispose rock, dirt or concrete in the trash. Not accepted at City Convenience Centers or Transfer Stations. Deliver to the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (Ewa).

YARD WASTE

- Sweep yard waste such as grass clippings, fallen leaves, fruits and shrub trimmings and keep them out of the storm drain system. Do not blow or hose yard waste into storm drains.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn when you mow to return nutrients to the soil. On-site do-it-yourself shredding and mulching is also an option.
- Place at curb for recycling collection in wheeled green carts for automated collection areas or in bags in manual collection areas. Drop off at City Convenience Centers or take directly to the composting facility, Hawaiian Earth Products, which manufactures mulch and compost products.

USED MOTOR OIL

- The best practice is to have your oil changed by a shop that recycles their waste oil.
- If you change your own oil, use an oil change box. When changing your oil, do it away from storm drains and have old rags around to respond in case of a spill.
- Never use old oil to kill weeds or allow oil to go down a storm drain.

PET WASTE

- Bring a bag, pick it up, and dispose of it properly, in trash.
- Also visit the Hawaiian Humane Society web site at www.hawaiianhumane.org/animallaws/index.html.

PAINT

- Small quantities generated at home can be disposed of with your regular household rubbish.
- Latex paint can be hardened in the can, then thrown away.
- Oil-based paints must be solidified with an absorbent material, such as shredded paper, old rags, or saw-dust, then sealed in a plastic bag. An oil change box provides the same results.
- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers near a storm drain.

PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

- Read the product label and use only as directed.
- Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before rain is forecast. Store under cover, off the ground, to prevent contact with water.
- To avoid excess nitrogen in Hawaii's waters, use slow-release nitrogen fertilizers. Consider using compost to enhance or replace fertilizers. The key to good nutrient management in your backyard is a reliable soil test; go to www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/PIO/FreePubs.asp or call 956-6706.
- Be careful not to spread fertilizer on sidewalks and driveways.
- Be sure to calibrate your spreader correctly.
- Choose a level site, or terrace the garden, to avoid runoff and erosion.
- Place fertilizer near plants rather than broadcast it over the entire garden.

CAR WASH

- Use a commercial car wash where they recycle the wash water.
- Wash your car in an area that allows the water to soak into the ground, such as grass or gravel. If you wash your car on a City street, have a bucket, sponge, hose with a shut-off nozzle, and use soap sparingly. Dispose of the dirty, soapy water in a utility sink, grass or gravel.
- If runoff cannot be kept on your property, it may be directed into the sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Charity car washes are allowed with consideration of BMPs.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Avoid having household cleaning products become hazardous waste by buying only what you need and using it.
- If you are unsure about how to dispose of a material, call 768-3201 to find out how to dispose of a product.