



Pollution Solutions FACT SHEET 2

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?

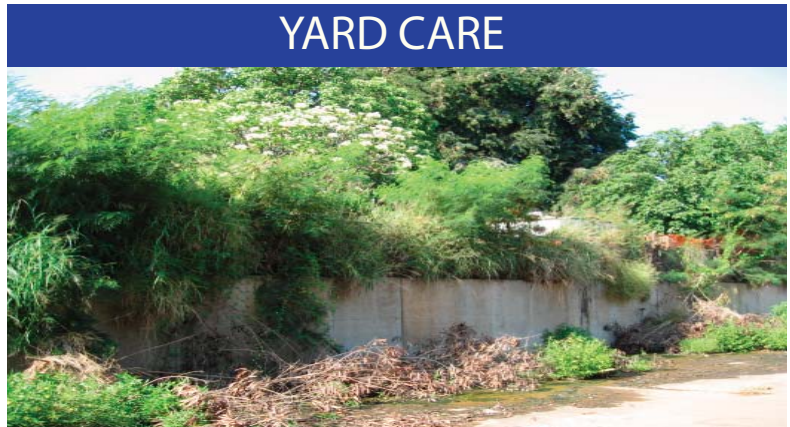
Many simple yet effective methods can be used to help reduce individual runoff. These are called Best Management Practices or BMPs.

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!



YARD CARE

We can have a positive impact on our environment by minimizing runoff that drains into streams, estuaries, and the ocean.

9 POLLUTION TIPS

1. **Keep It Clean:** It is your responsibility to keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters in front of your property clean.
2. **Dump No Waste:** Stencil storm drains with the message, “Dump No Waste, Protect Our Waters ... For Life,” and keep waste materials from polluting our waterways.
3. **Do It Right:** Use water-based paint and dispose properly.
4. **Don't Be An Oil Drip:** Identify and fix oil leaks on your vehicle; clean up drips and spills with absorbent material; dispose of used oil in an oil change box.
5. **Car Wash:** Wash your car where the water drains to a vegetated area; if you wash your car on a City street, use soap sparingly, a spray gun with flow restriction or a bucket and sponge to minimize runoff and save water.
6. **Cover Up:** Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property.
7. **Read The Label:** Read and follow the label on all fertilizers and pesticides. The label is the law.
8. **Yard Maintenance:** Gather grass, leaves, and yard trimmings for proper disposal or composting.
9. **Pick It Up:** Remove and dispose of pet waste before you leave an area.

PLANNING AND LANDSCAPING BMPs

1. Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property.
2. Sweep excess dirt and sediment runoff from landscaping or watering from sidewalks and driveways into grassed or planted areas.
3. Consider alternatives to concrete- or asphalt-paved surfaces. If you have a choice, consider more porous surfaces such as brick, gravel, wood chips, stone slab or geo-textile materials.
4. If areas must be paved, keep it to a minimum and direct runoff onto vegetated areas, not onto areas that flow to storm drains.
5. Mulch and plant exposed soil as soon as possible. Use sediment barriers when necessary.
6. Plant buffer strips of natural vegetation and woody plants to filter and slow runoff alongside waterways.

YARD WASTE

1. Clean leaves and trash out of the street gutters.
2. Prevent blowing or hosing grass clippings, leaves, fruits, tree cuttings and other yard waste into storm drains.
3. Prevent dumping of yard waste in drainage channels and streams.
4. Contain and place yard waste at the curb for recycling collection.
5. Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings on lawn after mowing. The nitrogen from the clippings acts as a natural fertilizer.
6. Use fallen leaves for mulching. Consider onsite do-it-yourself shredding and mulching as an option.
7. Compost your biodegradable wastes.
8. When using a yard service, be sure they follow these guidelines.
9. Download a copy of the Hawaii Backyard Conservation booklet at www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com/storm/learning_center/hawaii-backyard.html

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 public education programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to eliminate or reduce illegal discharge practices. Existing projects such as the City's Storm Drain Stenciling Campaign; Earth Month Everyday Clean Water Hero Campaign (teen video, radio); Earth Day 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 education and cleanups; Hawaii Backyard Conservation booklet, "The Journey Home" activity books; Good Neighbor Awards; Adopt-A-Stream/Adopt-A-Block Volunteer Leader Workshop; and "Healthy Stream/Healthy Yard" homeowner workshops, provide opportunities to educate and train an interested and committed neighborhood.



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.

Honolulu Storm Water Public Education-Outreach: 768-3248
Honolulu Storm Water Illicit Discharge (already occurred): 768-3247
Honolulu Storm Water NPDES Permit: 768-3287/768-3242
Honolulu Storm Drain Connection License: 768-8106
Honolulu Potential Flood Problem: 768-7890
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
- State (HSERC): 586-4249 (business hours), 247-2191 (after hours)

Revised August 2010

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

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)



Section 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.))

Sec. 41-26.3 Maintenance of streams.

The owner of any stream has the duty to maintain, dredge and clear such stream so that the natural flow of water runs unimpaired. The owner shall also be responsible for the removal of any debris, vegetation, silt or other items or material of any kind, that may interfere with the natural flow of water. (Added by Ord. 89-59)

Sec. 41-26.5 Notice of violation--Order to maintain, clear, and remove.

The chief engineer is authorized and empowered to notify the owner of any stream to maintain and clear any stream, and to remove any debris, vegetation, silt or other items or material of any nature, as is necessary for the proper maintenance of such stream. Such notice shall be as provided for in Section 41-26.12. (Added by Ord. 89-59)

