



Storm Water Pollution Prevention Tips

FACT SHEET 5

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 STORM WATER?

Storm water suggests large quantities of water (from rain, flooding) at any one given time. Basically, homeowners should keep three things in mind: 1) Storm water that stays on their property and soaks in is a resource helping replenish our ground water; 2) Runoff should stay as clean as possible before making its way to the nearest storm drain; 3) Unlike the sanitary sewer system, anything dumped into the storm drain system usually flows directly into the nearest stream or drainage channel, usually without any treatment to remove pollutants.

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

WHAT IS POLLUTED RUNOFF?

Because impervious surfaces (roofs, driveways, compacted soil, sidewalks, gutters, roads, parking lots, and other urban or developed land) do not allow rain to soak into the ground, the result is urban runoff.

This runoff becomes polluted by litter, pesticides, fertilizers, sediment from construction, bare soil, oil, pet waste, grass clippings and leaves that it picks up along the way to storm drains. In addition to rain, various human activities like irrigation, car washing, and malfunctioning septic tanks can also be the source of polluted runoff.

When polluted runoff reaches a water body it can have a harmful impact on the plants and animals in and around the water. It can also affect humans who swim or fish in the water, or whose drinking water comes from the water body.

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 Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Section 14-5A.1.

PET WASTE TIPS FOR RESIDENTS



Pet waste that was illegally dumped into a stream.

WHAT ARE BMPs?

Many simple yet effective methods can be used to help minimize 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. Others are incorporated into daily activities. The cumulative impact from all residents in a watershed, the land area that “sheds water” to a single body of water, can have a big impact on water quality.

Here are 9 simple actions you can do around your home to be an Everyday Clean Water Hero!

- 1. Keep It Clean:** It is your responsibility to keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters in front of your property clean.
- 2. No Dumping:** Mark storm drains with the message, “No Dumping, Drains To Ocean,” to help the community make the connection between neighborhood storm drains and local waterways used for drinking water and recreation.
- 3. Do It Right:** Use water-based paints whenever possible. Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers in the street, gutter or near a storm drain. Clean water-based paints in the sink, and oil based paints with thinner. Wrap dried paint residue in newspaper or let it harden in its container and dispose in the trash.
- 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:** The best practice is to use a commercial car wash, where the wash water is recycled. When washing your car at home, wash it on grass, gravel or a pervious surface, e.g. grass pavers, so water can soak into the ground. If you wash your car in a driveway or City street, use water and phosphorous-free soap, sparingly, with a bucket, sponge, and nozzle on the end of the hose to conserve water and minimize the amount of phosphates entering storm drains, streams and the ocean.
- 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.

Environmental Concern Line 768-3300
www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com



PET WASTE POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

1. Clean up after pets fully and completely.
2. Carry a clean up device (i.e., bag, scooper) when you walk your dog.
3. Bag and dispose of pet waste in a closed trash receptacle, refuse container or toilet, but do not flush plastic bags down the toilet. Always observe and adhere to posted signs for pets and other animals.
4. Do not place bagged or un-bagged pet waste in a storm drain or hose pet waste towards the sidewalk, gutter, street or storm drain.
5. Wash your hands with warm, soapy water after dealing with pet waste.

KNOW THE LAW

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.

The Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency 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 targeted participation and involvement to minimize and prevent urban runoff pollution. Existing projects such as Adopt-A-Stream/Adopt-A-Block, storm drain marking, World Water Monitoring Challenge, Make A Difference Month, Earth Month, Annual Pearl Harbor Bike Path Cleanup, and workshops provide opportunities to educate an interested and committed neighborhood.

The Hawaiian Humane Society plays an ever evolving role as a mediator on the changing relationships between people and animals. From its active shelter in the heart of Honolulu, the Society is the focal point of the animal community. Visit their website at <http://www.hawaiianhumane.org/>.

REPORT, 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.

Spill Response (Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response)
- Local (HFD): 911 (24/7)
- State (HSERC): 586-4249 (business hours), 247-2191 (after hours) Storm drain connection license 768-8106, <http://www.honoluluapp.org/ApplicationsForms/SiteEngineeringandSubdivisionPermit>

Clean stream hotline 768-7890 (potential flood problem)

Residential code enforcement (complaint investigations related to zoning and housing code for one and two family dwellings, sidewalk maintenance, vacant lot overgrowth, animal structures and setbacks) 768-8280

For questions or concerns regarding NPDES permitting, storm water illegal discharges, storm water public outreach, and/or storm drain connection licenses, call 768-3268

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)

City and County ordinance against littering includes a provision that applies to animals. If your pet deposits feces on private or public property, you are required to clean it up.

Section 7-2.4(b) General Requirements.

Enclosures for animals, farm animals and poultry shall meet all applicable zoning and building code requirements for structures; shall not be located within any required front, side or rear yard setback; and shall meet all other applicable sanitation requirements. Please note that these enclosures must have a roof.

Section 7-2.5 Special Requirements.

- (c) Dogs. The number, four months of age or older, shall not exceed 10 per household.
- (d) Chickens and peafowl. The number of chickens or peafowl shall not exceed two per household. (added by ord. 90-55; Am. Ord. 04-42)

Section 29-4.4(2)(9) Prohibited Activities.

No person shall permit an animal owned by such person or while in the person's custody to excrete any solid waste in any public place or on any private premises not the property of such owner; provided, however, that nothing herein shall affect the duty of the property owner or occupier to keep the premises free of litter and provided further that no violation shall occur if the owner of the offending animal promptly and voluntarily removes the animal waste.

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. 41-26.5 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)

The Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) can enforce on the animal nuisance law. The exception are rooster related nuisances that are enforced by HPD.