

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Clean Water: Our Only Choice

Rutherford County has one drainage system – the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets, homes, and businesses. Because the system contains no filters, it also serves the unintended function of carrying urban pollution straight into our streams.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent pollution from entering our streams from “storm water” or “urban runoff”.

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates storm water pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automobile fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to our streams through the storm drain system that takes water and debris straight from the streets to our streams. Each day tremendous amounts of polluted urban runoff enters our streams untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our creeks and river and tons of trash along their banks.

Urban runoff contaminates our streams and river, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging our storm drains and catch basins. Overall, storm water pollution costs us millions of dollars per year.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner streams and river, and a cleaner Rutherford County. For storm water information, call Rutherford County Engineering Office at 898-7732.

For more information please visit our website at: <http://www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov>

Hazardous Spill Response

Rutherford County Fire Dept
911 or (615) 890-7550

Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Rutherford County Extension Office
(615) 898-7710

To Report Illegal Dumping

Rutherford County Codes Department
(615) 898-7734

Rutherford County Engineering Office
(615) 898-7732

To Report a Drainage Problem

Rutherford County Engineering Office.
(615) 898-7732

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

**Food Service Industry
Automotive Maintenance & Car Care
Detention Pond Maintenance
Home Repair & Remodeling
Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control**

Home repair or remodeling that includes electrical, plumbing or an addition to your home requires a permit. You must get a permit from the Rutherford County Code Enforcement.

For more information or assistance, call, email or write:

**Tennessee Small Business
Environmental Assistance Program**

8th Floor, L&C Annex, 401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1551

1-800-734-3619

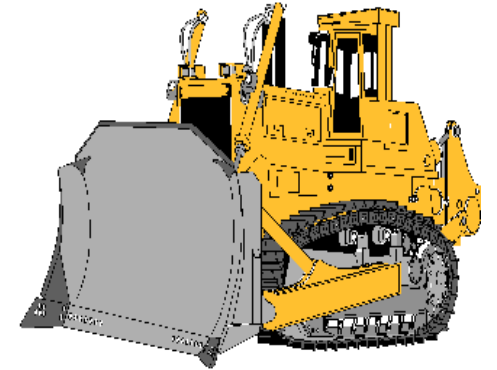
BGSBEAP@state.tn.us

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dca/index.html>

SWBMP4-05/03

Rutherford County Stormwater Department
1 South Public Square, Suite 200
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615) 898-7732

Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Heavy Equipment & Earth Moving Activities

Brochure 4

**Site Supervisors
Bulldozer, Backhoe
& Gardening
Machine Operators
Dump Truck Drivers
General Contractors
Home Builders
Developers**

Heavy Equipment Operation Problems

Soil excavation and grading operations often contribute to urban runoff pollution. By loosening large amounts of soil and sediment, earth-moving activities can cause sediment to flow into gutters, storm drains and into our streams.

Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it leaves the work site. Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases water temperature, all which harm aquatic life. Sediment also blocks gutters and storm drains increasing the risk of flooding in areas downstream of the work site.

Sediment also carries with it other work site pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, cement wash, asphalt, and car fluids like motor oil, grease and fuel. Thus, poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel and oil at the construction site also contribute to storm water pollution.

Land Disturbance Permits

Rutherford County requires that a individual contact the Office of Planning & Engineering prior to beginning any land disturbing activity unless the activity is covered by the Tennessee Right to Farm Act or involves home landscaping or gardening. This permit requires individuals to develop and implement an erosion control plan. For more information, contact Rutherford County Office of Planning and Engineering at (615) 898-7732.

Solutions

Best Management Practices, such as handling, storing and disposing of materials properly can prevent excavation site pollutants from entering storm drains.

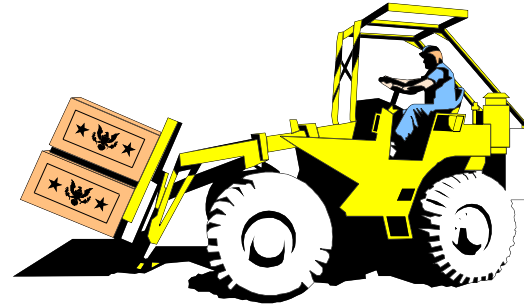
1. General Business Practices

- ◇ Schedule excavation and grading work for dry weather.
- ◇ Use as little water as possible for dust control.
- ◇ Obtain a copy of the Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, July, 1992, available from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.
- ◇ For site specific guidance or any questions you may have regarding erosion control please call the Rutherford County Engineering Department.
- ◇ For local construction site inspection, call Rutherford County Engineering Department 898-7732.



2. Clean up Spills

- ◇ Never hose down “dirty” pavement or impermeable surfaces where fluids have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods (saw dust, cat litter and/or rags).
- ◇ Sweep up dry materials immediately. Never attempt to bury them or “wash them away” with water.
- ◇ Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.
- ◇ Report significant spills to the appropriate spill response agencies immediately. Use the telephone numbers provided on the back of this pamphlet.



3. Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

- ◇ Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently for leaks.
- ◇ Conduct all vehicle/equipment maintenance and refueling at one location — away from storm drains.
- ◇ Perform major maintenance, repair jobs off-site.
- ◇ Use and maintain gravel construction entrances where truck traffic is frequent to reduce soil compaction and limit tracking of sediment into streets.
- ◇ Use drip pans or drop cloths to catch drips and spills, if you drain and replace motor oil, radiator coolant or other fluids on site. Collect all used fluids, store in separate containers and recycle whenever possible.
- ◇ Do not use diesel fuel to lubricate equipment or parts.

4. Erosion Prevention

- ◇ After clearing, grading or excavating, exposed soil poses a clear and immediate danger of storm water pollution. Re-vegetation (permanent or temporary) is an excellent form of erosion control for any site.
- ◇ Avoid excavation and grading activities during wet weather.
- ◇ Inspect your erosion control installations after every rain and at least twice a week or after a half inch rain event.
- ◇ Construct diversion dikes to channel runoff around the site. Stabilize channels with grass or other material. Place small check dams or rip rap in channel to reduce runoff velocity.
- ◇ Cover stockpiles and excavated soil with secured tarps or plastic sheeting.
- ◇ Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary. Large projects should be conducted in phases.
- ◇ Consider planting temporary vegetation for erosion control on slopes or where construction is not immediately planned.
- ◇ Plant permanent vegetation as soon as possible, once excavation and grading activities are complete.

