

Contact Information

- **Salt Lake City**
Department of Public Utilities
Stormwater Quality Division
1530 S West Temple, Salt Lake City 84115
Phone: 801-483-6729
Emergency: 801-483-6700
Email: stormwaterquality@slc.gov
Website:
<https://www.slc.gov/utilities/stormwater/stormwater-2/>
- **Salt Lake County Health Department**
Bureau of Water Quality and Hazardous Waste
Phone: 385-468-3862 (Office & Household Hazardous Waste Collections Program)
Emergency: 801-580-6681
Website: <https://slcohealth.org>
- **Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition**
Website: <https://stormwatercoalition.org/>
"We All Live Downstream" (Facebook/Instagram)
- **Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ)**
Division of Environmental Response & Remediation (DERR)
195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City 84116
Phone: 801-536-4100
Emergency: 801-536-4123



We All Live Downstream
stormwatercoalition.org



Landscapers Common Pollution Prevention Best Practices

Storm Drains:

- Identify nearby storm drain inlets and waterways (gutters, ditches, flumes, swales, etc.); note the slope of land to identify where any spills/materials may flow if released (with the intention to protect the drains)
- Keep gutters and ditches (and other waterways) clean during (as able) and after any landscaping activities
- **Know the weather forecast for landscape operations; adjust activities when precipitation or wind would impact the ability to properly control and contain organic material (clippings and dirt), trash, or pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers**
- **No material/waste products should ever be washed into or allowed to enter a storm drain; even if the product claims to be biodegradable or environmentally friendly it is still illegal to dispose into the storm sewer or waterways**

Liquid Waste:

- Follow all cleaning/chemical/fertilizer product labeling for proper use, disposal, and clean-up
- Never pour excess liquid wastes (including oil) in the gutter or storm drain, simply use as much as possible then take what is left to the County's Household Hazardous Waste collection center at the landfill (never pour these chemicals down the sink/toilet as it may have harmful effects to the wastewater treatment plant)
- Unless the chemical product states it should be used in rain, do not apply chemicals when rain/wind is forecasted within 24-48 hours (follow instructions)
- Minimize water usage and do not wash down messes

Solid Waste:

- Place all removed vegetation, dirt, trash, debris, and other solid waste products into a trash/waste receptacle (plastic bags are not preferred for yard waste); recycle where appropriate and compost when able to do so
- **It is illegal to place/blow such waste debris into a storm drain or into the street (or any other stormwater conveyance/waterway)**



Guide to Water Pollution Prevention For Landscape Installation and Maintenance Contractors



The mobile, dispersed, and repetitive nature of landscaping installation and maintenance requires diligence to prevent pollution and the impacts to public health and the environment that come with such activities. Whether this work occurs at private residences or commercial and institutional facilities, **it is important to follow all applicable laws and regulations about pollution control and waste management (particularly the control of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and organic/green waste).**

This is because any pollution (such as improperly handled/disposed waste materials or chemicals) that occurs outside has the potential to enter **storm drains; which flow directly to area waterbodies (canals, streams, rivers, lakes, etc.) without any treatment (as is their design: to prevent flooding) and can have major impacts to the chemical and biological quality of those receiving waters if pollution is not controlled.**

This brochure seeks to protect water resources and the biological communities that rely on clean water to support life and other beneficial uses (including fishing, swimming, and in some cases human or animal consumption).



Salt Lake City
Department of Public Utilities
Stormwater Quality

1530 South West Temple Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Telephone: 801-483-6729

Emergency: 801-483-6700

Website: <https://www.slc.gov/utilities/stormwater/stormwater-2/>

Cleaner Water is the Goal Yard Waste Management is the “Game”

Water pollution in this country comes (in large part) from **stormwater as runoff from rain and snowmelt mixes with various pollutants** (such as fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, vegetative waste, sediments, bacteria, vehicle fluids and dusts, detergents, grease, chemicals, litter, and others) that often accumulate over time on impervious surfaces such as parking lots and streets. During runoff events, these pollutants pass through the storm sewer system before flowing into receiving waters (streams, canals, rivers, lakes, etc.) without treatment, which is harmful to the environment. **Direct dumping down storm drains is also a serious problem and is illegal with penalties for violations.**

Landscaping businesses (installers and maintainers) must establish practices of collection, transport, and disposal of all wastes generated through their operations, as well as considerations for equipment, irrigation, fertilizer, and pest management. Here is a list of various **considerations and pollution prevention practices for landscapers:**

Installation/Maintenance Activities

- The dirt, clippings, removed vegetation, packaging, and other waste products from landscaping activities is considered illegal to place into the storm sewer or waterbodies
- If possible, prior to work, sweep/rake area to remove trash and debris, but **always clean-up after completion of the activity**
- Best practice for cleaning after the work is done is to blow/sweep the plant trimmings or earthen debris back on to the landscape (as it makes excellent, free mulch); if not preferred by the landowner, then these materials must be placed in appropriate receptacles and disposed of either at a composting facility or in landfills using tan cans or paper bags (for plant matter) or the trash bin for all other solid wastes.
- Whenever possible, use drought-tolerant and native plants



Material Storage

- Chemical and biological materials should be kept in closed containers until use and then closed/covered again after use and should never be stored on the street, gutter, or near a storm drain where water will flow
- Store soil and mulch in contained areas where they will not be washed into the street or storm drain; cover them if they can blow away or become dissolved in water

Power/Pressure Washing

- The water produced from power-washing, while sometimes smaller in quantity will be much higher in concentration of dirt and other pollutants
- This wastewater must be contained, collected, removed, and properly disposed; if discharged onto a vegetated surface, be sure it seeps into the ground and does not overflow into the street, storm drain system, or surface waters

Fertilizers, Herbicides & Pesticides

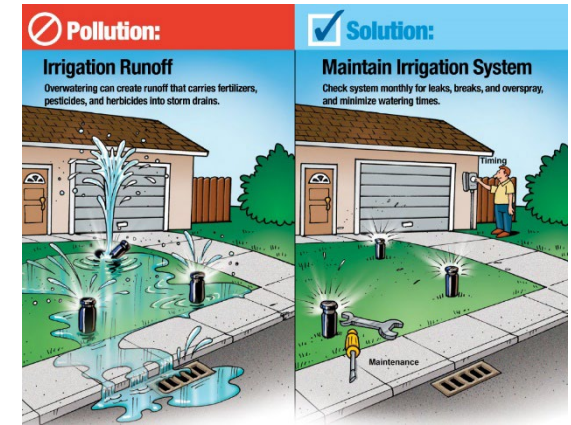
- These chemicals are effective at controlling unwanted plants and animals but can cause major problems to waterbodies
- Apply these chemicals at minimum application rates and make full effort to prevent them from landing on paved ground such as streets, sidewalks, gutters, etc.
- Always use manufacturer directions for proper use/disposal.
- Do not apply when rain is predicted, unless required
- When available, use natural or low-toxic alternatives

Equipment Maintenance

- Regularly inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks; if maintenance is needed, complete this as soon as possible
- When draining fluids, use a drip pan to prevent spills
- Always keep a spill kit of safety equipment and absorbent materials (such as cat litter) for spills; dispose of the materials in trash once clean-up is completed

Irrigation Management

- Irrigation should be targeted to vegetated areas, only, because irrigation runoff will carry pollutants and dirt downstream into storm inlets and waterbodies
- Proper alignment of sprinklers and drip systems (with minimized flows) conserves water, and promotes healthy growth of preferred plants while not encouraging water-loving weeds and pests
- Check sprinkler systems regularly to ensure they have not broken or become plugged/dislodged



For Managers & Supervisors

- Local government regulations require proper disposal of yard waste, wash water, oil, garbage, chemicals, and bulky items
- Create employee incentives to protect the environment through keeping work areas clean and proper disposal of wastes during all aspects of business activities, including transportation from one site to another
- Require documentation of disposal practices
- Provide spill kits and other emergency clean-up methods
- Train employees to contain waste and wash waters and to place bagged garbage inside dumpsters with closed lids and doors
- Familiarize employees with disposal programs (such as the County's Household Hazardous Wastes program) and Material Safety Data Sheets for all products being used

If there are questions about disposal, drain cleaning, or collections services, please contact any of the resources listed on the reverse page

REMINDER: Dumping plant matter (leaves, clippings, limbs), wash water, chemicals, or trash on the ground or into storm drains may lead to the following problems:

- Fines and penalties against businesses and individuals for illicit discharges into storm drains or creeks
- Property damage from flooding caused by blocked pipes
- Foul-smelling standing water and waste in storm drain system
- Effect to water quality in downstream waterbodies (including reduced oxygen, altered water chemistry, and toxicity that harms life in local creeks)
- Illness in pets and people playing in polluted creeks
- Possible requirements to obtain stormwater permit coverage from the City for long-term regulation of the commercial operation