



POLLUTION PREVENTION FOR GROUNDS CARE/LANDSCAPING COMPANIES

The City of Gallatin provides educational information to professional companies to help encourage the use of Best Management Practices that minimize the potential for stormwater pollution. Stormwater pollution occurs when pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, yard waste, trash, oil, and other chemicals are picked up by water from rainfall and flows into storm drains and ditches or directly into streams. The water from storm drains and ditches runs directly into streams and into Old Hickory Lake, polluting the water we all rely on for drinking water and recreation. Clean water is everyone's business!

Grounds care companies can help prevent stormwater pollution by observing the following practices:

- Mow so that grass clippings/leaves are not blown into streets, driveways, or sidewalks or blow/sweep them back into the lawn.
- If landscape waste is collected, dispose of at local yard waste recycling/composting facility.
- Never apply fertilizers or pesticides within 5 feet of pavement, 25 feet of a storm drain inlet or 50 feet of a stream or water body. If chemicals collect on pavement, blow/sweep back into grass.
- Do not apply fertilizer just prior to predicted rainfall.
- Check equipment to make sure there are no oil or fuel leaks. Recycle used motor oil.
- Wash equipment so the dirty water runs into grass and not into storm drains.
- Reduce water needs during hot summer months by adjusting grass to an increased height.

Landscaping companies can help prevent stormwater pollution by observing the following practices:

- Suggest/select native varieties of plants and grasses or those that require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Use mulch in beds to minimize erosion and runoff. Design plans that do not allow soil and mulch to run off with rain.
- Remove and properly dispose of trash.
- Suggest a low- or no-fertilizer approach to maintain turf and the use of organic fertilizers and natural pest management techniques.
- Evaluate whether stormwater can be directed into the landscaping bed or consider designing a rain garden.

It is very important that professionals refer to the manufacturer's instructions regarding the proper storage, use, and disposal of chemicals such as:

- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Herbicides

Not only does this reduce the likelihood of stormwater pollution, but also ensures the safety of employees and residents—humans and pets. Thank you for your attention. If you have questions or need further information, please contact the Stormwater Section with the City of Gallatin Engineering Division at 615-451-5965 or visit our website: <https://www.gallatintn.gov/1855/Stormwater-Utility>