



Pollution Solutions FACT SHEET 1

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 pollutants it picks up into storm drains. Storm drains are not connected to wastewater treatment plants. So, what's in the streets flow directly into our streams and ocean. 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.

“Pollution problem” means the discharge of any pollutant into state waters directly or by conveyance through a drainage facility which creates a nuisance or adversely affects the public health, safety or welfare, or causes a drainage facility to violate any provisions of the city National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or violates any water quality standards of the State of Hawaii.

Environmental Concern Line 768-3300
Help protect our waters ... for life!

USEFUL TIPS FOR RESIDENTS



We can have a positive impact on our environment by minimizing runoff that drains into streams, estuaries, and the ocean. Sound environmental practices begin at home and at work. Here are nine simple actions we can incorporate into our daily activities to reduce pollution.

- 1. Keep sidewalks, curbs, and gutters clean.**
- 2. Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property.**
- 3. Gather grass clippings, fallen leaves, shrub trimmings and fruits, and dispose as green waste, or compost your yard trimmings**
- 4. If you change your own oil, use an oil change box. The best practice is to have your oil changed by a shop that recycles their waste oil.**
- 5. Remove and dispose of pet waste before you leave an area.**
- 6. Use water-based paint and discard properly.**
- 7. Read the product label on fertilizers and pesticides and use only as directed.**
- 8. Wash your car on a lawn or gravel drive where the water will soak into the ground. Dispose of leftover soapy water in your bucket into a toilet or sink.**
- 9. Keep household cleaning products from becoming hazardous waste.**



Discharging pollutants to the storm drain system is against the law. Violations 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 and the State Department of Transportation, 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 storm drain stenciling, Adopt-A-Stream Workshops, World Water Monitoring Day, and Adopt-A-Block cleanup and monitoring programs, provide opportunities to train a 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 or dumping.

Spill Response (Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response)

- Local (HFD): 911 (24/7)

- State: 586-4249 (business hours), 247-2191 (after hours)

To report illegal discharge or dumping that has already occurred, call 692-5656

NPDES permitting questions: 768-3242

Polluted runoff public outreach: 768-3248 (City), 586-4309 (State)



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www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com
www.opala.org

SIDEWALKS, CURBS AND GUTTERS

- Do keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters around your property clean by sweeping up debris and disposing of it in the trash prior to hosing with plain water. Remember, it is a property owner's responsibility to keep these areas clean.
- The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH), Section 14-20.1 Cleaning and Maintaining Sidewalks, Driveways states, "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 areas."

SOIL AND DEBRIS

- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover or mulching erosion-prone areas.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- Cover excavated material and stockpiles of soil, sand or gravel to protect them from rain, wind and runoff. Sweep or scoop up cement washout or concrete dust instead of hosing into driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.
- Do not over-water your yard.

YARD WASTE

- Sweep yard waste such as grass clippings, fallen leaves, fruits and shrub trimmings and keep them out of the storm drain system. Do not blow or hose yard waste into the gutter.
- Use fallen leaves as mulch or for composting.
- Yard waste is restricted at City disposal sites to no more than 10% per truckload.
- Place green waste at the curb for recycling collection (see twice/month schedules at www.opala.org or call your collection yard).

USED MOTOR OIL

- The best practice is to have your oil changed by a shop that recycles their waste oil.
- If you change your own oil, use an oil change box.
- Never use old oil to kill weeds or allow oil to go down a storm drain.
- When changing your oil, do it away from storm drains and have old rags around to respond in case of a spill.

PET WASTE

- Bring a bag, pick it up, and dispose of it properly, in the toilet or trash.
- Also visit the Hawaiian Humane Society web site at www.hawaiianhumane.org/animallaws/index.html.

PAINT

- Use water-based paint whenever possible.
- Clean water-based paints in the sink, or oil-based paints with thinner.
- Wrap dried paint residue in newspaper or harden in its container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers near a storm drain.

PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

- Read the product label and use only as directed.
- Never apply before a rain. Store in a covered area in sealed, water-proof containers.
- Call 768-3201 for an appointment to drop off these materials at the hazardous waste handling facility contracted by the City.

CAR WASH

- Direct wash water to a planted area so the wash water can percolate into the ground. Use a bucket and or nozzle for your hose to keep water from running continuously.
- Dispose of leftover soapy water (in your bucket) into a toilet or sink. If runoff cannot be kept on your property, it may be directed into the sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Use detergent sparingly. A rule of thumb is to use no more cleaner than can be rinsed using a 5 gallon bucket of rinse water.

- Charity car washes are allowed with consideration of BMPs.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Avoid having household cleaning products become hazardous waste by buying only what you need and using it.
- If you are unsure about how to dispose of a material, call 768-3201. to find out how to dispose of a product.