

Roadwork & Paving...

How to Prevent Water & Storm Sewer Pollution

Best Management Practices For:
Asphalt Paving Providers
General Contractors
Developers

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Stormwater Pollution

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and other potential pollutants.

What is the Problem?

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution. Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen can cause the overgrowth of algae resulting in oxygen depletion in waterways. Toxic substances from motor vehicles and careless application of pesticides and fertilizers threaten water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from animal wastes and improper connections to storm sewer systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming and fish consumption. Eroded soil is a pollutant as well. It clouds the waterway and interferes with the habitat of fish and plant life. Fortunately, stormwater pollution can be prevented or minimized by implementing Best Management Practices which are procedures or activities that reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater.

How to Prevent Pollution from Roadwork and Paving

Road paving, surfacing and pavement removal activities contribute to stormwater pollution because they take place on roads where stormwater runoff can be contaminated with asphalt, saw-cut slurry or excavated material.

Best Management Practices

General Practices

Protect both dry and wet materials from rainfall and runoff by storing under cover. Avoid storing materials near storm sewers, ditches and waterways.

Schedule excavation and grading work for dry weather.

Implement NYSDEC approved erosion and sediment control BMPs for embankments.

Recycle used oil, concrete and waste asphalt.

Equipment Maintenance

Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment regularly; Inspect frequently for leaks.

Conduct all vehicle and equipment maintenance and refueling at one location, away from storm drains.

Perform major vehicle and equipment repairs and washing off site.

Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment or parts.

Best Management Practices

Asphalt and Concrete Removal

After breaking up paving, be sure to remove all chunks and pieces. Recycle them at a crushing company.

Shovel or vacuum saw-cut slurry and remove from site.

Cover or barricade storm drain inlets during saw-cutting.

During Construction

Cover catch basins and maintenance access points when applying seal coat, slurry seal and fog seal.

Use check dams, ditches or berms to divert runoff around excavations.

Never wash excess materials into a street, gutter or storm drain.

Avoid over-application by water trucks for dust control.

Created and distributed as part of our stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. Our goal is to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution.

This is part of the implementation of a stormwater management program that complies with New York State's Stormwater regulations. -2/2009