



POLLUTION PREVENTION – PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

When it rains, stormwater flows over impervious surfaces such as rooftops, parking lots, roads, and sidewalks. The runoff can pick up pollutants, such as oils, trash/debris, fertilizers, pesticides, paint, cleaners, and other chemicals and flows into storm drains located throughout the CNU campus. Unlike water that goes to the sanitary sewer system (most indoor drains), storm drains usually lead directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. The pollutants carried by stormwater runoff affect water quality and impact wildlife. As you walk around campus, look for the “No Dumping, Drains to Waterway” markers attached to the storm drains.



Why is stormwater important?

The federal government has determined that stormwater runoff is the leading cause of water pollution in the nation. Stormwater pollution results from a wide variety of activities. Each of us can contribute to the problem, sometimes without even realizing it. The CNU campus community includes students, faculty, and staff who may not always be aware of their potential impact on the campus environment, including surrounding areas.

You can help reduce pollution by remembering to keep potential pollutants away from storm drains.

Everyone plays a part in improving stormwater quality. CNU is committed to educating the CNU campus community about the impacts of stormwater discharges on water bodies and the steps that the community can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. The goal of this brochure is to educate students, faculty, staff, and visitors at CNU about stormwater pollution and how to prevent it.

What are the problems with stormwater runoff?

It is important that we keep as much pollution out of stormwater as possible. The main concerns on campus are trash/debris, oil, sediment, nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), heavy metals, and toxic chemicals.

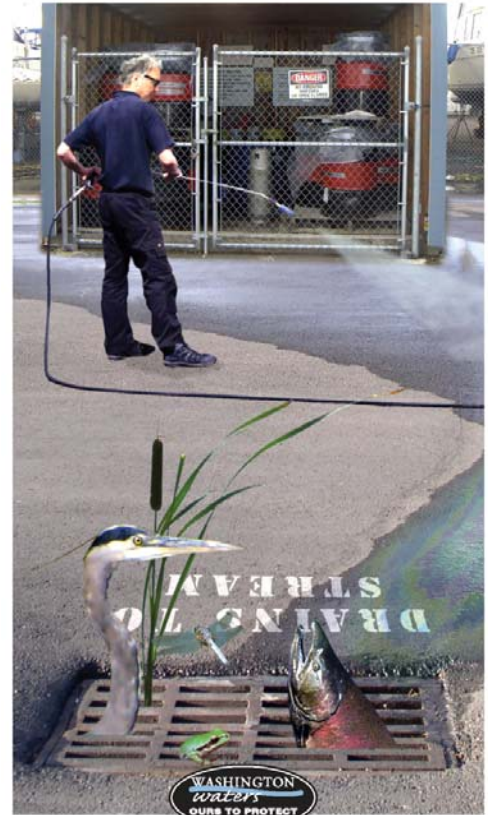
What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

Here is a list of things that you can do to minimize your impact on stormwater while on campus (or anywhere you are):

- Reuse and recycle where possible.
- Keep pollutants off parking lots, roads, and sidewalks.
- Keep trash dumpster lids closed.



- Don't put liquid or hazardous wastes in trash dumpsters.
- Properly dispose of chemicals, oil, paint, antifreeze and other toxic materials.
- Don't litter (even cigarette butts).
- Sweep up debris and put it in the trash instead of flushing it into the street or storm drain with water.
- Don't dump any chemicals down a storm drain.
- Clean up spills promptly. Don't allow spills, leaks, or wastes to enter the storm drain.
- Maintain good housekeeping, dispose of waste properly in trash cans or dumpsters.
- Maintain trash and dumpster areas to prevent materials from being washed into storm drains.
- Maintain chemical storage areas, chemicals stored outside should be covered and have secondary containment.
- Maintain spill clean-up kits in all chemical storage areas.
- Report any evidence of pollution to the CNU Grounds Department.



www.ecy.wa.gov/washington_waters/

Spill Prevention:

- All containers, even empty ones, should be labeled and stored properly.
- Utilize proper storage and disposal facilities. Improper storage of materials could lead to accidents or spills. Even residue from open containers or corrosive metal parts can runoff into the storm drain.

One quart of used motor oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.

- Inspect and maintain vehicles and other equipment in order to prevent fluid leaks.
- Inspect containers for signs of corrosion on a regular basis, and replace as necessary.
- If spills occur, use dry absorbent materials to contain and clean up spilled chemicals, then properly dispose.

Proper Cleaning Techniques:

- Never wash spilled chemicals, trash, automobile fluids or grease off of parking lots, loading docks, or into a storm drain.
- Regularly clean outside areas to prevent pollutant buildup.
- Block storm drains before pressure-washing buildings or equipment and collect the water with a liquid vacuum device for proper disposal.
- When cleaning outside areas, dry sweep or vacuum instead of washing down to storm drains.
- Verify that floor drains are connected to the sanitary sewer system, not the storm drain system.
- Wash vehicles in a proper facility, such as a car wash, that disposes all water to the sanitary sewer system.



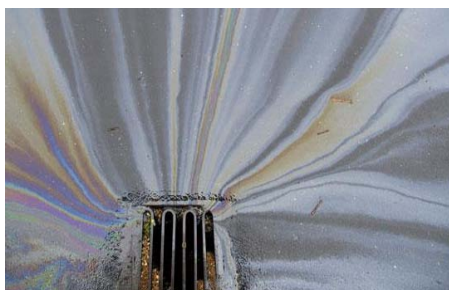
www.acfenvironmental.com

Employee Education:

- Be prepared for emergencies by developing a "spill response plan" for your facility.
- Train employees on the proper procedures to follow in the event of an accidental spill or discharge.
- Display appropriate signage on hazardous material storage containers that list the dangers associated with each substance.
- Train employees about proper disposal of waste.
- Post emergency phone numbers near hazardous material storage areas and on employee bulletin boards.

Specific areas of stormwater pollution include:

- Sediment generated by construction activities that can be washed into the storm sewer system.
- Construction waste and litter that can be washed into the storm sewer system if not picked up on a regular basis.
- Improper disposal of liquids such as cleaning solutions, laboratory chemicals, or other liquid wastes that can leak out of solid waste containers and drain with stormwater into the storm sewer system.
- Chemicals that may spill as a result of accidents during loading or unloading at shipping and receiving locations and/or spills of fuel that can occur during the filling of equipment at storage tanks.
- Fertilizers and pesticides used in maintaining the landscaped grounds during the summer months may adversely affect water quality if application rates and timing of applications are inappropriate or if spills of these chemicals occur and are not properly contained and cleaned up.
- De-icing chemicals, salt, and sand used on the streets and parking areas during the winter months may be carried to the storm sewer system when snow, accumulated in piles during routine snow removal activities, melts.



www.spokanewastewater.org

The following are indicators of possible stormwater pollution:

- An oil sheen on the water's surface;
- Stains on and around the ground and storm drains;
- Unusual discoloration of grass, plants, and vegetation;
- Distressed (dead or dying) vegetation and plants;
- Dead or dying animal life; and,
- A thick layer of algae on a water body.

More information about CNU's stormwater management programs is available at the following website www.cnu.edu/grounds. You can also call the CNU Grounds Department at the phone number listed below.

Pollution Prevention

To make comments or suggestions, or to report potential stormwater contamination concerns, please call the CNU Grounds Department.

CNU Grounds Department 757-594-8700