



Stormwater Management: A Fact Sheet for Small Business Owners

Did you know that there are two sewer systems?

- The **sanitary sewer** collects waste water from homes, business and industry from sinks, toilets and other outlets. It goes to the water treatment plant for treatment.
- The **storm sewer** collects runoff from streets. There is no treatment for the storm sewer; storm water goes into the ground and eventually into the ground water. Anything dumped or left in the street or gutter is pollution that can enter retention basins where children and pets play and from there can infiltrate and contaminate our ground water.

Discharges that can introduce pollutants into our waterways through storm water runoff *include soaps, automotive fluids, litter, sediment, pesticides and many other materials washed off roadways, sidewalks, buildings, vehicles and other equipment.* Dry wells provide direct conduits for carrying these pollutants into the storm drain system. If your business site includes a dry well, be aware of applicable local and state regulations.

Dry wells are for the disposal of storm water only and **must** be registered with the state. If pollutants are present at your site and likely to enter the dry well, the state requires that you obtain an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP). For more information on permits, please contact ADEQ's Water Quality Department at (602) 771-2300.

Your business may be required to comply with the Federal and State Storm Water requirements by filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) and preparing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Check with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to determine if your facility falls under these requirements (www.adeq.state.az.us/environ/water/permits/azpdes.html). Also, please see Gilbert's stormwater ordinance (1590) at <http://gilbertaz.gov/departments/human-resources/environmental/stormwater-quality/municipal-permits>.

Some Best Management Practices for Businesses:

1. Good housekeeping:
 - a. Improve operation & maintenance of equipment and processes to prevent leaks & spills.
 - b. Implement or review careful material storage practices.
 - c. Maintain a careful hazardous material inventory.
 - d. Schedule routine cleanup options.
2. Preventative Maintenance:
 - a. Inspection and maintenance of stormwater structures such as retention basins & dry wells.
 - b. Regular checks and maintenance of equipment to prevent leaks and spills.
3. Training & Record Keeping
 - a. Develop a training program to educate employees on stormwater regulations.
 - b. Designate one or more people to conduct inspections and to keep detailed records.
4. Traditional Practices
 - a. Covering fueling operations and materials, manufacturing and storage areas to prevent contact with storm water.
 - b. Containing pollutant storage areas with berms or other containment devices.
 - c. Diverting stormwater away from areas of potential contamination.



Only Rain in the Storm Drain

Environmental Services
4760 S. Greenfield Rd.
Gilbert, AZ 85297
480.503.6497

www.gilbertaz.us/environment

