

# CLEAN WORKING IN OUR WATERSHED

Our watershed is the total land area, including your business, which drains to our streams and rivers. Runoff from poor irrigation practices can carry pollutants into the storm drain system. The storm drain system is a vast network of gutters, pipes and open channels designed for flood control, which directs runoff – untreated – from the watershed straight into our streams, rivers or other bodies of water. The polluted runoff can kill or damage indigenous plants, fish and wildlife, and can degrade the quality of our water.

Nothing but rain water may be discharged to a storm drain. It is illegal, as well as harmful, to allow waste materials of any kind into the storm drain system.

Make your business part of the clean watershed equation with these simple **Best Management Practices for Nurseries:**



## Irrigation Runoff Prevention

Regularly inspect irrigation systems for leaks and to prevent excessive runoff. When using overhead sprinklers for irrigation, minimize the use of fertilizer injection and apply pesticides directly to the target minimizing drift and overspray. Convert paved areas to bare soil or vegetation areas that will slow and absorb runoff wherever possible.

## Loading & Unloading

Conduct loading and unloading of materials on a paved surface to contain spills or leaks. Reject any leaking or damaged containers or bags from suppliers. If possible, avoid loading/unloading in wet weather or move activities to a covered area to reduce exposure to rain. Clean spills immediately using dry methods and broom sweep to remove debris.

## Storage & Disposal

Store fertilizers, pesticides and other toxic garden materials in a covered area and in sealed waterproof containers. Place stockpiled raw materials away from watercourses and storm drain inlets, and berm and/or cover them. Keep liquid waste out of dumpsters and keep dumpster covers closed to reduce exposure to rain and wind.

## Equipment Maintenance & Operations

Maintain your equipment and vehicles to prevent oil and fluid leaks. Perform vehicle maintenance on an impervious pad (sealed concrete) with a roof to prevent rain from washing automotive fluids into the watershed. Use drip pans under trucks and forklifts in parking areas or when working on engines or machinery.

## Building & Grounds Maintenance

Dispose of grass clippings, leaves, sticks, or other collected vegetation by composting, as green waste where service is available, or as garbage. Keep landscaping waste out of streets, waterways and storm drains. Regularly sweep outside areas, including parking lots and dumpster areas.



**THE WATERSHED SHOULD ONLY SHED WATER**  
[cleanwatershed.org](http://cleanwatershed.org)

**COMMUNITY FOR A  
CLEAN WATERSHED**

