

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) LAWN AND GARDEN

BMPs are procedures and practices that help to prevent pollutants such as dirt, chemicals, trash, metal, pet waste, automotive fluids, and other hazardous materials from entering the storm sewer system.

YOU can help keep stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River clean by applying the following tips:

- ◆ Do not blow or rake grass clippings, leaves or other yard waste into the street or gutter.
- ◆ Leave mulched grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer.
- ◆ Recycle yard waste or start your own compost pile.
- ◆ Don't over irrigate. Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray system and water early in the morning.
- ◆ If you have a spray head sprinkler system, consider adjusting your watering method to a cycle and soak. Instead of watering for 15 minutes straight, break up the session into 5 minute intervals allowing water to soak in before the next application.
- ◆ Keep irrigation systems well maintained and water only when needed to save money and prevent over-watering.
- ◆ Use fertilizers and pesticides that are phosphorous free.
- ◆ Have your soil tested to determine the nutrients needed to maintain a healthy lawn.

- ◆ Consider using organic fertilizers they release nutrients more slowly.
- ◆ Use pesticides only when absolutely necessary. Use the least toxic product and always read the label.
- ◆ Properly dispose of unwanted pesticides and fertilizers at the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility. www.co.clay.mn.us



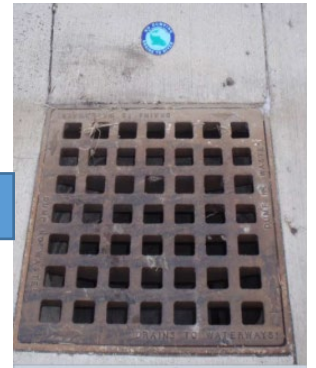
DID YOU KNOW

Storm drains are NOT connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant.

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants entering waterways.



Dumping oil down a storm sewer catch basin



Ends up in the Red River

ILLICIT DISCHARGE



City of Portage, Michigan

Storm sewers cannot treat polluted water. The primary purpose of a storm drain is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. As water flows over the ground it picks up a variety of pollutants which then flow to stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm drains, ditches, pond and river that are not composed entirely of stormwater. City ordinance Title 3 Chapter 8

How to report an illicit discharge

24-hour hotline 218-299-5386 to help staff please give them the following information.

- Location of discharge
- Size of discharge
- Type of discharge
- Color of the discharge
- Take pictures

Hazardous Spill Call 911

EXAMPLES OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES

- ♦ Debris or other materials
 - Grass clippings
 - Concrete
 - Metal
- ♦ Disposal or misuse of Chemicals or other materials
 - Fertilizers, Herbicides, etc.
 - Gasoline, Oils, etc.
 - Paints, stains, etc.
- ♦ Sediment
 - Erosion
 - Tracking of materials onto City streets

BMPS

- ♦ Never dump anything down a storm drain.
- ♦ Repair leaks, cover spills and dispose of waste properly.
- ♦ Use a commercial car wash or wash your vehicle on your grass.
- ♦ Dispose of used paint, oil, antifreeze or any other household chemicals in an approved manner. Contact Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility.
- ♦ Keep an eye out for illicit discharges especially during dry weather. This could be a sign there is a problem and should be reported.



Stormwater Pollution Prevention

24 Hour Stormwater Hotline 218.299.5386
E-mail: stormwater@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Web site: www.cityofmoorhead.com