

Stormwater Matters

In 1972, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted the Clean Water Act. Phase II implementation of permitting for Non-Point Source water pollution included state entities like universities. So in 2010, the University of Kentucky received a Permit (MS4) from the Kentucky Division of Water and initiated a comprehensive program to prevent pollution of



our storm sewers, streams, and waterways. Among our many Permit requirements, day-to-day activities on campus must be performed in a manner that will not harm the quality of stormwater runoff. We need to consider how our actions might cause water pollution. Pick up trash, recycle, and don't pour anything in storm drains. Enjoy the beauty of native plantings in landscape areas and along streams that cleanse stormwater runoff. Last, understand the cost to protect the environment. **Be Wise on Water!**

Report an Illicit Discharge Hotline

To report an illicit discharge, spill, or unusual surface water condition, call the numbers below:

Between 8:00am - 5:00 pm M-F
859-323-6280

After Hours and Weekends
911 (from on-campus phones) or
859-257-UKPD (8573)

Anytime
<http://ehs.uky.edu/env>



Environmental Management Department
355 Cooper Drive
Lexington, KY 40506-0490

Phone: 859-323-6280

Fax: 859-323-6274

<http://ehs.uky.edu/env>

University of Kentucky Environmental Management

What you need to know about ...

MS4 Stormwater Quality Management



An Introduction to Requirements to
Protect Water Quality on Campus

The Importance of Preventing Stormwater Pollution

The University of Kentucky is responsible for the implementation of a state and federally enforced Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. Permit activities include Public Education and Involvement, stopping non-stormwater flows into pipes, Construction erosion control, removing pollutants from rainwater runoff, and “Good Housekeeping” in campus operations. While there are penalties associated with Permit non-compliance, the main reason to follow these mandates is protecting the environment. Point Source Pollution, that coming from factories and wastewater treatment plants, only accounts for a small portion of the pollutants in our streams. Non-Point Sources, such as runoff from fertilized lawns, sediment from



Stream bank erosion due to lack of riparian zone (buffer strip)

construction sites, and oils from pavement runoff, occur daily in urban areas and, left untreated, can adversely impact aquatic life in streams and lessen the enjoyment of our waterways.

So, the responsibility of our students, staff, and faculty living and working on campus to protect the environment is more important than ever!

What we can do to protect our waters

Educating students, faculty and staff of such risks can bring about the biggest change in improving the quality of the water discharging from our storm sewers. Most people may



Rain Gardens, Bio-swales & porous pavements allow for infiltration of runoff

not realize that storm sewers DO NOT drain to wastewater treatment plants like sanitary waste does. This simple fact may stop someone the next time they think about pouring something into a storm drain. However, not all activities in our daily lives can be altered to prevent such pollution.

We build new buildings, parking lots and roads, mow our lawns, and wash our vehicles. We need to fully understand the significance of construction site and water quality best management practices (BMP). BMPs like bio-swales, rain gardens, detention basins, and porous pavements reduce both water runoff volumes as well as provide pre-treatment for stormwater before it enters our storm sewers and waterways. Even the way we conduct our daily activities on campus can make a positive difference.

How you can be a part of the solution

Being *Wise on Water*, which means thinking about how your actions may impact stormwater runoff, will make a difference.



Oils and trash entering drains can clog pipes and harm streams



Volunteers at UK Fusion 2012 performed storm drain marking as a community service project.

Consider these things in your daily routine:

- Volunteer for a stream cleanup or outreach project
- Know the rules and policies for campus life and operating procedures
- Pick up litter
- Recycle
- Dispose of oils, fuels, chemicals, and other waste properly
- Wash vehicles and equipment in designated areas and away from storm drain inlets
- Clean up spills promptly
- Support buffers along streams and detention areas by planting native plants, and limiting mowing and use of herbicides and pesticides along the banks and within storage areas
- Report dumping into the storm drains to your supervisor, hall director, or the Illicit Discharge Hotline
- Lead by example and tell other students, faculty, and staff what you are doing to prevent stormwater pollution