

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, campus operations and maintenance tasks must be performed in a manner that will not harm the quality of stormwater runoff. In our day-to-day activities, we need to consider how our actions might cause water pollution. Don't pour anything in storm drains, clean up spills promptly, and follow manufacturer's recommendations on chemical use.



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)



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 ...

Custodial Services & Stormwater



A Guide to Campus
Operations and Maintenance

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, Detection and Elimination of Illicit Discharges, Construction and Post-Construction 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 illegal dumping of chemicals and improper use of cleaning products can adversely



Non-Stormwater flows into storm drains (illicit discharges) are easily found during periods of dry weather

impact vegetation along stream banks and aquatic life in streams and lessen our enjoyment of our waterways. So, the job of campus operations and maintenance 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 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 pollution. Facilities, offices, and shops need to be cleaned, lawns maintained, vehicles washed, and various wastes are generated. The way we manage our daily operations on campus can make a positive difference. Proper use, storage, and disposal of chemicals, cleaning up spills immediately, and educating ourselves on campus rules and policies will protect stormwater quality before it enters our storm sewers and waterways.



Draining floor wax & stripping agents directly into storm drains pollutants streams

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.

Consider these things as you work:

- Know the rules and policies for your job
- Store cleaning materials per the manufacturer’s directions, and away from storm drains or floor drains. Outdoor storage should be covered or enclosed
- Learn if drains are connected to sanitary sewer or storm sewer
- Dispose of chemicals and other waste properly
- Wash equipment in designated areas and away from storm drain inlets
- Clean up spills promptly. Know the location of spill cleanup materials and written procedures
- Report dumping into the storm drains to your supervisor or the Illicit Discharge Hotline.
- Lead by example and tell students, faculty, and staff what you are doing to prevent stormwater pollution
- We all make mistakes... monitor results and adjust your procedures to improve efficiency, performance, and quality of work. *There is always a better way!*



Consider the cleaning job and your options to use less toxic or less concentrated products