

## 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. Pick up trash, don't put yard waste in storm inlets, clean storm grates that are clogged with debris, don't pour anything in storm drains, and don't use chemicals along streams and near storm sewers. **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 ...*

# MS4 Stormwater Quality Management



A Guide to Requirements to Protect  
Water Quality

# 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 runoff from fertilized lawns, sediment from construction sites, and oils from



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

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 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



Bio-swales & porous pavements allow for infiltration

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 post-construction best management practices (BMP). BMPs like bio-swales, rain gardens, detention basins, and porous pavement 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 manage our daily operations 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.

### Consider these things as you work:

- Know the rules and policies for your job
- Pick up litter
- Return grass clipping and excess fertilizer back onto turf surfaces instead of the street gutters and storm inlets
- Dispose of oils, fuels, and other waste properly
- Wash vehicles and equipment in designated areas and away from storm drain inlets
- Clean up spills promptly
- Create buffers along streams by limiting mowing and use of herbicides and pesticides along the banks
- Maintain post-construction BMPs located throughout campus
- Prevent sediment loss from job sites
- 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



Oils and trash entering drains can clog pipes and harm streams