

WaterWatch



Building, Remodeling and Good Housekeeping

City of Orem has a program of cleaning storm drainage catch basins, sumps and pipes. During regular inspection and maintenance we come across many items and substances that should not be there. This article will share some of our findings along with what we have done about them. We will also present some ideas on how these discharges into our system could have been prevented.

A lot of pollution is construction related. Here are some items that you should know about what contractors are dealing with.

Sediment

The most common potential pollutant found in our City's Stormwater system is dirt. Dirt can clog sumps and shorten their service life. We expect a certain amount of dirt to



It is not uncommon to find massive amounts of dirt in gutters at construction sites

collect in our catch basins and sumps. In fact, newer inlets are designed to allow dirt to settle out instead of being transported downstream.

However, in areas of construction, we often find excessive amounts of dirt in the system. In some cases, newly installed sumps must be rebuilt even before construction has ended.

These situations could be avoided by construction operators following Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) that have been designed to keep sediment on construction sites and out of storm drains. These plans consist of measures to prevent erosion and to collect sediment. They also include measures to ensure proper storage and disposal of chemicals and construction waste.

To help with issues related to SWPPPs, the City will be hiring a



A concrete washout bin. The company will haul this for proper disposal at a later date.

Storm Water Inspector. This inspector will educate contractors, developers and homeowners, and, when necessary, enforce stormwater related construction ordinances. Violations of these ordinances can lead to fines and stop work orders.

Concrete Washout

After pouring, cement trucks have to wash out before they return to the plant. Concrete washout can fill the perforations in the side walls of a sump quickly and shorten the service life of drains.

The best way to handle concrete washout is to provide an area lined with heavy plastic for the concrete to be washed into. Some solid waste companies have washout dumpsters available where concrete washings are allowed to dry. After it dries, the company then hauls it away.

Concrete, Tile, Marble and Granite Cutting

The process of cutting these hard solid surfaces includes constant wetting of saw blades. Water tainted with concrete cutting residue is very alkaline. The water from wetting the

(Continued on back)

If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

City of Orem Public Works
1450 W 550 North
Orem, UT 84057
Phone: 801-229-7500
Fax: 801-229-7599

We're on the Web!
www.orem.org

Lawn Care

Now is the time to care for your lawn. There are a couple things to keep in mind.

- Grass clippings can be a problem for our storm drains. They can clog them and potentially lead to flooding. They can also add nutrients to storm water, leading to harmful algae blooms. Mulching or composting clippings helps your lawn and keeps clippings from blowing around the neighborhood.
- It is often necessary to apply chemicals to your lawn. Remember to store these chemicals securely. If you have some fertilizer that gets on driveways and sidewalks, sweep it back into the lawn.

These two items will help keep your lawn green and keep our water clean.

Building and Remodeling

(Continued from front)



Water used to cool the blade of a concrete cutter like this can carry pollutants to storm drains.

blade is often discharged directly into gutters.

To prevent staining of gutters and the polluting of storm drains, tile and marble cutting should never be done in streets or on driveways. Cutting can be done over a tarp on the lawn. In the case of concrete cutting all downslope storm drain inlets should be protected



Not cleaning up from concrete cutting can lead to scenes like this.

by a filter fabric. Residues should be cleaned as soon as possible.

Paint

One of the most common questions we receive is, "What should I do with the paint I have stored in my shed?" This is a great question because paints, stains and other similar products contain solvents, heavy metals and suspended solids that could harm water quality.

The best thing to do with paint is to use it up. The next best thing is to find someone else who can use it. But if you need to dispose of it, you can buy a paint hardener at a paint store. Add



This water way has been polluted with improper paint disposal

that to your old can of paint, stir until it's hardened and then you can dispose of the paint in your garbage.

As far as cleaning out brushes, rollers, sprayers and other painting accessories, if you are using water based paints, you should wash out into a sink that is plumbed to the sanitary sewer. Never wash out in the gutter.

Other Chemicals

There are often other chemicals on construction sites. It is important these chemicals are stored properly. They should be kept in a secured building or trailer. They should be labeled properly and Material Safety Data Sheets should be readily available.

Another consideration is having a spill prevention and response plan in place. These plans usually called for absorbents and other clean-up materials to be stored on site. They also outline who to contact if a spill occurs.

During this summer of construction and remodeling, take a minute to observe what is being done to keep construction sites in your area clean.

Sources:

North Shore City Website:

<http://www.nsc.govt.nz/>

Auckland Regional Council Website:

<http://www.arc.govt.nz/>

Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook:

[Http://www.cabmphandbook.com/](http://www.cabmphandbook.com/)