

O&M Staff Training Module 4:
Maintenance Best Practices for Water Quality Protection
Landscape Maintenance



City of Tacoma Environmental
Services - 2018

**How do you select the
right BMP for the job?**

Many of your work activities require BMPs

- Landscape maintenance, restoration and new installation
- Application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides
- Trash and pet waste management
- Pressure washing and graffiti removal

Selecting Appropriate BMPs

Basic BMPs to use on every activity:

Suggested BMP Strategies	Recommended BMPs
Keep Water Away from Area	Schedule work for dry weather
Good Housekeeping	Sweeping area when job is complete.
Spill Prevention	Keep Spill Kit on site and clean up spills immediately
Seasonal Limitations	Oct.1-Apr.30 – No soil exposed more than 2 days May 1-Sept.30 – No soil exposed more than 7 days

When installing or maintaining landscapes

Key steps to remember

1. Install storm drain inlet protection.
2. Install erosion and sediment controls.
3. Cover stockpile material, if it remains on-site overnight
4. Mulch or seed to permanently stabilize any exposed soil.
5. Blow, sweep or shovel leaves or clippings into truck for proper disposal.
6. Remove storm drain inlet protection.



When applying fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides

Key steps to remember

1. Read the manufacturer label for appropriate product use.
2. Mix chemicals, fill sprayers, and rinse out chemicals on target area and away from surface water or storm drains.
3. Avoid applying products near surface water, to areas where water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC LANDSCAPES INCLUDING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT MARCH, 2011



When applying fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides

Key steps to remember

4. Avoid applying products when weather conditions will likely create drift or runoff from treated areas.
5. Sweep up excess materials and dispose of properly.

**MANAGEMENT
GUIDELINES FOR
PUBLIC LANDSCAPES**
INCLUDING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
MARCH, 2011



When performing landscaping activities

Remember trash and pet waste management

1. Prior to mowing or during other landscaping activities, **scan area for garbage, pick it up and properly dispose.**
2. For pet waste: **scoop it, bag it, and dispose of it in the garbage.**
3. If you suspect waste is hazardous, contact your supervisor.*

*Transient camp or dump site clean-ups on City property may require additional BMPs and personal protective equipment (PPE). Contact your supervisor for special instructions.



When performing pressure washing and graffiti removal

Key steps to remember

1. Install storm drain inlet protection.
2. Remove larger debris, trash and dog waste before washing.
3. If using detergents, cleaners or acids, washwater shall be captured and routed to sanitary sewer. Contact Environmental Services 502-2222.



When performing pressure washing and graffiti removal

Key steps to remember

4. If no cleaners are used, cold washwater may be discharged to adjacent landscaped areas or storm drains with proper pretreatment. Filter washwater through wattles or other BMPs prior to discharging to the storm drain.
5. Washwater from graffiti removal shall be captured and discharged to the sanitary sewer.
6. Sweep up graffiti sand-blasted material into landscaping or collect and dispose as solid waste.



Field Assistance

Need some help with your BMPs?

Call any time:

502-2222



Environmental Services Department - Environmental Compliance Team

Available 24/7

**What to watch for in the
field...**

City Staff Water Pollution Call-in Line

(253) 502-2222

Same easy
number!

Please call if you notice:

- Muddy construction site track-out or runoff
- Accidental spills or illegal dumping
- Car washing, power washing with soapy water
- People hosing or washing away oil, paint, or other garbage into the street or down the storm drain
- Oily sheen or colored liquid
- Chemical or sewage smell
- Sudsy foam
- Garbage accumulation in or around catch basins
- Liquid seeping from garbage dumpsters
- Hoses connected to catch basins
- What else have you seen?



You are our eyes in the field...



Review Questions

Question #1

When applying landscaping chemicals, which of the following are not necessary?

- a) Read the manufacturer label.
- b) Mix chemicals, fill sprayers, and rinse out chemicals away from surface water or storm drains.
- c) Avoid applying products when weather conditions will likely create drift or runoff from treated areas.
- d) Install storm inlet protection.

Question #2

Which of these power washing activities are allowed to discharge washwater to the stormwater system?

- a) If using detergents, cleaners or acids
- b) If no cleaners are used, only cold washwater
- c) Washwater from graffiti removal

Question #3

Call the Staff Water Pollution Call-in Line (253-502-2222), if you see which of the following:

- a) People hosing or washing away oil, paint, or other garbage into the street or down the storm drain
- b) Oily sheen, muddy runoff or sudsy foam
- c) Car accident
- d) Garbage accumulation or liquid seeping from garbage dumpsters

Quiz Answers

- Question #1: d)
- Question #2: b)
- Question #3: a), b) and d)