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:

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

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)