

Keep Pollution at Bay - One Parking Lot at a Time

As a business/property manager, you play an important role in keeping our waterways clean and healthy! Follow these tips to reduce polluted runoff, prevent flooding, and make a good impression with your customers and employees. Businesses, churches, hospitals, and other institutions can do a lot to reduce polluted runoff from their parking lots. When considering improvements one option is to replace asphalt with "permeable" pavements that allow rain and melting snow to soak in rather than run off. Another is to design parking lots to drain into rain gardens/bio-basins, filter strips, and drainage swales, rather than directly into the storm drain system. Until then...

DO



DON'T



- Maintain storm drains and stormwater structures check 3-4 times per year, and clean and repair as necessary
- Sweep parking lots regularly to collect trash and debris.
- Provide covered trash cans, recycling bins, and cigarette butt receptacles in highly visible areas.
- Consider a dumpster enclosure, pad or fence around dumpsters.

- Don't wash vehicles in your parking lot. Use a car wash or vehicle wash bays that direct dirty wash water to the sewer, not storm drains.
- Don't leave dumpsters open.
- Don't let trash cans overflow.

Why is this necessary?

Rain that falls on and around your site can pick up trash, dirt, and chemical residue as it drains away. Much of this water, or stormwater, ends up in our local rivers. It's the fastest growing type of water pollution in Massachusetts. Stormwater pollution is bad business for our waterways. It harms fish and wildlife, makes our water unsafe to drink, and can spoil outdoor activities.



For more information see www.cambridgema.gov/stormwater or www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org

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